



# "Quote GRIP It"

Reflector 2012



# Quote It

## GRIF It



Thomas Kudyba, 11



Ashley Noojin, 12

## Reflector 2012

Volume 71

Griffith High School

600 N. Wiggs

Griffith, IN 46319

219-924-4281

[www.griffith.k12.in.us](http://www.griffith.k12.in.us)

enrollment: 912

girls: 513

boys: 399



Carlton Vallient and Kalissa Greenlaw, 12

the 1990s, the number of people with a diagnosis of schizophrenia has increased in the United Kingdom (Meltzer 1997). The prevalence of schizophrenia in the United Kingdom is estimated to be 1.2% (Meltzer 1997).

There is a growing awareness of the need to improve the lives of people with a diagnosis of schizophrenia. The United Kingdom has a number of national strategies for mental health care, including the 1998 *Mental Health Act* (MHA) and the 1999 *Mental Health Review Board* (MHRB) (MHA 1998, MHRB 1999). The MHA and MHRB are designed to ensure that people with a diagnosis of schizophrenia are treated in a way that is consistent with the principles of the MHA and MHRB. The MHA and MHRB are designed to ensure that people with a diagnosis of schizophrenia are treated in a way that is consistent with the principles of the MHA and MHRB.

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# remember 2011-2012



The beginning of the year means something different for nearly every student at GHS. For the incoming freshmen, it marks the start of a long journey, on which they embark into unexpected waters. For the students starting their sophomore year, it is the introduction into two years of dreadfully being stuck in the middle. Juniors begin a year in which the students are finally considered upperclassmen, but are faced with the rumored hardest year of high school. The beginning of the year marks the first 'last' for seniors: the last first day of school. Seniors prepare themselves to begin a year of good-byes, while finally realizing that high school does, in fact, go much faster than expected. As a student body, we all enter in different places but are overall united by one goal: to make and preserve memories throughout the year.

Throughout high school, we choose our groups of friends. Students are normally united by common interests, such as sports and hobbies. In some cases, though, we form relationships with people that we never would have imagined. This reveals a beautiful side of high school: two lab partners may become best friends, a biology teacher may become a mentor, and two 'locker buddies' may find that they have much more in common than they are able to discuss in the five minute allotted time period between classes.

Sometimes, entire classes of students that have been together for years form very strong bonds, especially by their senior year. United by homework struggles and extremely difficult tests, it is unexpectedly easy to form bonds with many classmates.

"Our AP English class has been together for four years. We have so many inside jokes, like saying 'You are not recognized,' to people when they try to talk, and catching 'skadooshes.' We also spent an entire year 'creeping' on the couple who lived across the street from the school, and saying that we were going to write a love story about their lives," said Mike Kent, 12.

Regardless of who you're with or where you are, high school is all about making memories. These are the last four years that it is still okay to rely on others, meanwhile finding ways to independently mature. The responsibilities of high school students are, for the most part, minimal. This makes it much easier to spend time with friends, creating endless lists of 'inside jokes.' Memories can be made anywhere. They are made during a chemistry lab in Mrs. KV's class, when your lab partner makes a mistake that

leads to a simple experiment turning into a volcano of foam. Memories are made while sitting in the freezing rain at a Friday night football game huddled under a blanket with your best friends, but refusing to leave before the time runs out. Unknown at the time, many memories are made in small, every-day instances, such as comfortably walking down the hall with a friend of twelve years, or having a quiet conversation in the library with a new student. Even punishments lead to memories - oftentimes, stories are told of hilarious instances in detentions and in in-school suspensions. "I've been scarred from in-school because all of the kids were telling bad stories of why they were there, but my story was simply that I farted," said Chance's Walker, 12.

Many groups of friends have certain sayings that only a select few people would understand the significance of. These short, chosen words, often linked to a specific funny moment or meaningful happening evoke more feeling than most common words do.

There are certain teachers at Griffith High School that are characterized by the comments that they make every day. Jim Pickett, Social Studies Department, makes many daily jokes, such as holding his hand up to one of his students and saying, "High five!" then dropping his hand and finishing with "Who's a dork?" J.R. Ford, Spanish, ends class on some days with prized words for Spanish students, "No hay tarea," which means "There is no homework." "Mr. Ford always told me to stay after class. Even if I didn't say anything inappropriate he always assumed that it was me! But somehow I always managed to sneak out before I had to stay after class," said Mallory Baccino, 12.

Aside from only friend groups, there are also certain sayings that link all students at GHS together. "That's what she said," is often stated after a straightforward comment to imply an innuendo, which will send any group into a fit of laughter. "Dueces," accompanied by two fingers held up to indicate 'peace,' is commonly shouted to friends across the hall or after school as a familiar good-bye. "That awkward moment when..." starts many sentences to recall a particularly odd happening. "That awkward moment when you put your hand on the rail at Six Flags and someone sits on your hand and you touch a stranger's butt," said Joey Rivera, 11. "That awkward moment when half of your lunch table hates each other and fight every day and then they move," said juniors Stephanie DiSanto, Emma Blackard, Sarah Galambos, and Melissa Martinez.

Throughout the halls of GHS, "Quote it" is commonly said and heard. Whenever someone says something that others want to remember, "quote it" is said, and the phrase is usually repeated at various, random times, to help groups recall memories that they otherwise may have forgotten.

Although it is said that actions speak louder than words, words, too, paint a perfect picture of who someone is at a particular point in their life. The things that you say during your daily life, all in all, define who you are. Words shape the feelings, thoughts, friendships, and memories of the present time. The fact of the matter is that these four years pass undeniably fast and in order to remember exactly who someone is in high school, whether they're a classmate, teacher, or best friend, one must record as many daily events as they can. After all, memories are made solely to be preserved, recorded, and revisited.

# Quote.

## GRIFFITH



After watching his teammate, freshman Noah Duvnjak, score a goal against Merrillville, senior Jake Schnoor jumps up and joins in the group hug with his teammates sophomore Zane Fassoth and Duvnjak. "Even though it was my first year playing soccer, this past season has been one of the most memorable experiences I have ever had. I'll never forget the crazy time and awesome moments we had together either goofing off or making fun of our coach," said Schnoor.



*"We live for crazy nights at our best friend's house after Homecoming. The weekend is the only time that we have to ourselves without having to worry about cramming for a Biology II test or finishing our vocab cards for English. High school is the time to worry about absolutely nothing and have the time of our lives with the people we'll never forget."*

-Brooke Brinkley, 12

A day in the life of a Griffith High School student begins with waking up at 6 a.m. so that they can look their best and be at school on time for their first period class at 8 a.m. It consists of spending seven hours in a desk with a half hour break for lunch and counting down the hours until the 2:55 dismissal. The students spend five minutes in between every hour in order to catch up on the latest gossip or discuss their huge biology cell project or Jim Pickett's dreaded economics stock project. While school is packed full of advanced placement classes for some, the majority of students try their best to get into as many "blow off" classes as possible.

After school, the athletic students and the theatrical students rush to change out of their jeggings and Affliction t-shirts and into their jerseys or costumes. Students run to their cars to change into their best superfan outfits on Friday nights so that they can support the football team at seven o'clock at The Boneyard. After the game, students flock to TD's Pizza, Bridge's Scoreboard or to a friend's house to relax around a bonfire and just joke around. Students this year had a new opportunity for entertainment after a basketball game, when the GHS cheerleaders hosted a casual dance.

As usual, the GHS football team defeated Munster at the Homecoming game, and the student section stormed the field. After the game, the football play-

ers went to Bridges Scoreboard and celebrated. On the Saturday after the game, student council went into the fieldhouse at 8 a.m. and transformed it into a New York City themed dance party complete with a cut out of the Statue of Liberty and the Empire State Building. Sophomore class council won the float building contest with a unique idea. The Homecoming dance began at 6:15 and lasted until 10:00. Griffith Alumnus Dwight Poole headed the DJ stand and Eddie Covarrubias, music, was the supervisor.

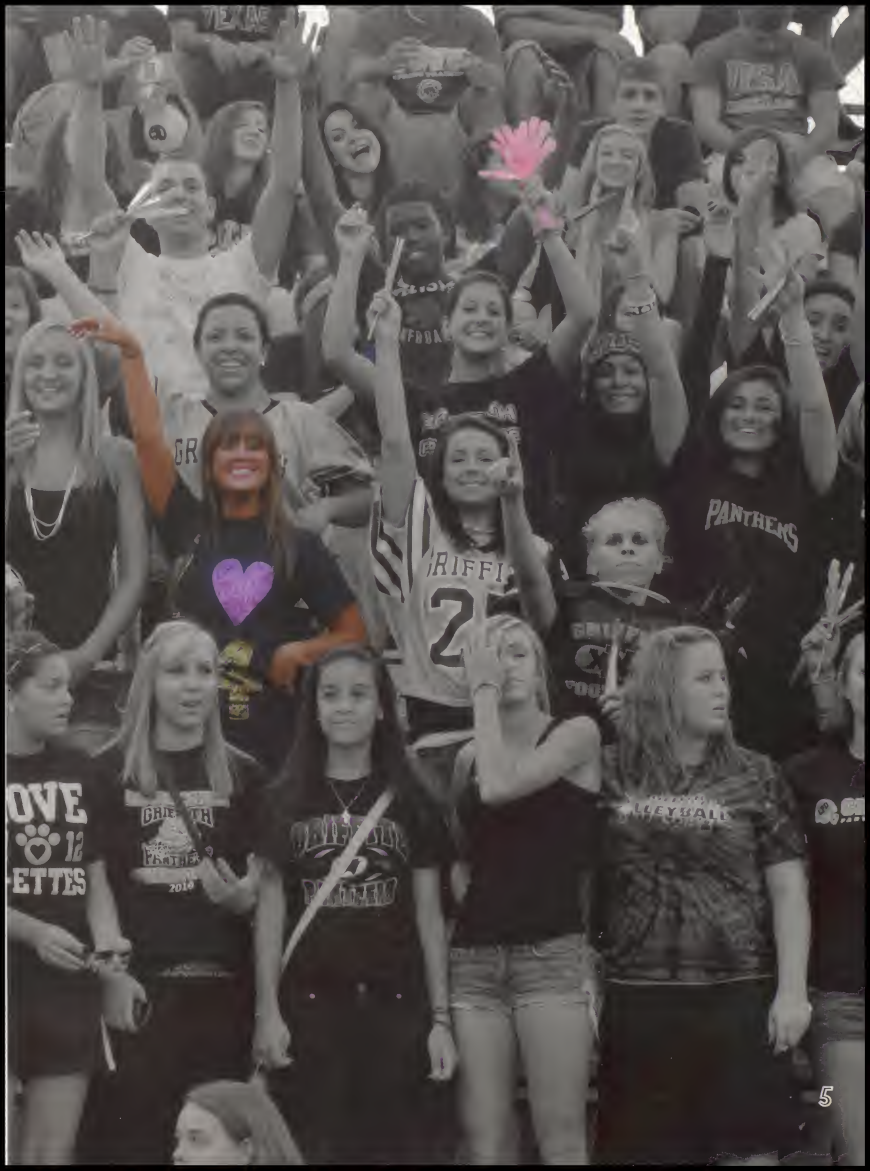
This year, the seniors were not allowed to participate in a senior prank. Also, Activities Day was taken away and a pep rally was put in its place. The long time tradition of stealing the cow was also not allowed. The pep rally consisted of hearing the National Anthem sang by Chorale, announcing the varsity football team, two performances from both the cheerleaders and Pantherettes, and announcing the couples on Homecoming Court. Seniors Ben Reitz and Taylor Steffan were crowned Homecoming King and Queen.

In January, the Turnabout dance was a huge success. All grade levels were invited to attend the dance and many students enjoy Turnabout the most because every one is allowed to attend and it is more formal than Homecoming but less formal than Prom.

The junior-senior Prom was held in the month of May and was the highlight of the year. Many boys found cute ways to ask their special girl to the dance and the extra thought often guarantees a yes answer.

In order to study for impossible AP Calculus tests and AP Spanish, many students met at McDonald's for "McStudy Sessions." Most students ordered their one dollar sweet teas and a huge "MGB" to help them concentrate.

In a small town like Griffith, Indiana, entertainment can be hard to find. But whether it is spending the night with your best friends after Prom, being terrified while watching Paranormal Activity 3 at the AMC theatres, picking out a hot pink golf ball at Zao Island Mini Golf, or taking the train to Chicago to take a picture in "The Bean," GHS students will always find ways to live life to the fullest with no regrets.





*“Changing as you grow up is inevitable, especially as everything is changing around you. You have to make sure that you’re able to keep up with the times.”*

-Jacy Vuckovich, 10



## The Inevitability of Change

“I came into high school nervous, yet eager to experience something new. I’ve gained numerous life-long friends, but also lost some along the way,” said Rachel Garastik, 12. Rachel explains that she’s grown out of her “crazy” freshman ways and has matured a lot during her high school years. She still wishes her senior friends from last year were here but she says part of growing up is learning to accept and embrace the changes, because they’ll never go away. During her freshman and sophomore year she was involved in a lot of clubs and activities but didn’t have any leadership positions. That all changed junior year when Garastik became co-captain of the girls swim team. Also, this year as a senior, Garastik is president of NHS. “Now that I’ve taken on leadership positions, I’ve realized what a huge responsibility it is and that has made me learn to manage my time more,” said Garastik. Since freshman year Garastik has taken enriched classes, which have challenged her to the max. As for her senior year, she’s taking college level courses which will hopefully prepare her for next year. All of the changes she went through in high school have taught her to enjoy things more because time moves fast and in the blink of an eye you go from being a freshman to a senior. “I’ve grown up a lot in the past four years and although at times it has been rough, the positive things that’ve happened have made it all worth while,” said Garastik.



Performing at the Homecoming pep rally, sophomore Brooke Maglish dances to, “Moves like Jagger.” “My team this year, is like a sisterhood. We’re working through the loss of Ms. Calhoun together,” said Maglish.

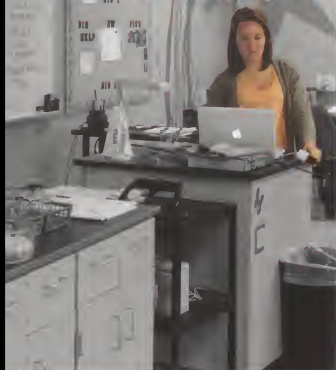
One of the many favorite new changes is the new lunch options.

While waiting in line to get a sandwich, freshman Nathyn Sierra expresses his opinion. “I like the deli line because it’s convenient and you get to pick what you want,” said Sierra.





*"The new school technology makes school and doing projects much easier."*  
*-Mason Carter, 11*



Cecily Jones, 10



Ryan Bluhm, 12



Monica Gonzales, 10

## Changing with the Years

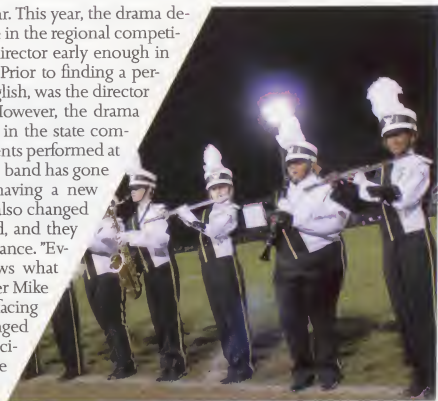
"Throughout the years, I've become more mature and I don't listen to people's drama." -Cecily Jones, 10

"My style changed since I started high school. I went from tomboy to completely girly." -Monica Gonzales, 10

"Growing up, I've learned that if you work hard enough towards something it actually happens for you."  
 -Ryan Bluhm, 12



Several things have changed this year. This year, the drama department was not able to participate in the regional competition, because they did not have a director early enough in the year to be eligible to compete. Prior to finding a permanent director, Lisa Megquier, English, was the director for the first semester of the year. However, the drama department was able to participate in the state competition, and two of the drama students performed at the All-State Show production. Also, band has gone through some changes, such as having a new band director, Debbie Korak. They also changed the style of music being performed, and they have a different competition performance. "Everything is different, nobody knows what to expect," said senior band member Mike Kent. Along with drama and band facing new changes, other clubs have changed as well, such as National Honor Society, International Club, and Science Olympiad having new sponsors.





# Coming up with our new senior traditions made me look forward to this year's Homecoming. It brought our entire senior class closer Together.

-Mallory Baccino, 12

The main focus of the GHS Homecoming this year was to bring the students together. Activities and traditions were completely different at GHS for this year's Homecoming week. "Minor changes" as said by the administration, was an understatement. Although everyone was affected by the new Homecoming week changes, the senior class was especially upset. Some even tried to retaliate against the administration.

The first change was spirit week. Instead of the exciting and slightly odd spirit days, the administration strongly advised the school to use traditional cliché themes. Monday was Dress Up Day, Tuesday was College T-shirt/Jersey Day, Wednesday was Ugly Sweater Day, Thursday was Twin Day, and Friday was Black & Gold/Homecoming T-shirt Day. This change was the first of the senior class retaliation by making their own spirit

days, including Nerd Day on Tuesday, Grandparents Day on Wednesday and Costume Day on Thursday.

The next change was the removal of all senior pranks. This new rule pushed the senior class over the edge. Every year at GHS, the senior class pulls a prank on the entire school on Thursday night by decorating the school. Because of the extent of destruction from 2010's Homecoming prank and the new state laws that would not allow students in the school without supervision, the seniors were not able to perform the traditional senior prank. As a result of many class meetings, the seniors decided to abide by the law, but to leave Mrs. Manuel some mysterious mail.

The last change to Homecoming week was holding the Pep Rally instead of Activities Day. In an attempt to unite the classes together and keep the bond strong, administration decided to have a Pep Rally to introduce the football players and Homecoming court. It also allowed the cheerleaders and Pantherettes to perform. This upset many of the students, but everyone cooperated as expected.

Even though the entire Homecoming week was different, the Friday night football game stayed the same. The Panthers faced the Munster Mustangs this year in a full out brawl. The cold and rainy weather was a major issue during the game, but as expected the Panthers won 20-13.

## Homecoming Fire Drill

During 5th hour on Homecoming Friday, an unexpected fire alarm occurred. Senior Prank? Real danger? Believe it or not, the fire alarm was only due to dust from the ceramics room. This minor postponement kept the students outside for close to forty-five minutes and caused some students to miss lunch. "It was a big waste of time," said senior Riley Henderson, "We were out there for no reason and I had to eat lunch during sixth hour."



Sophomore Lauren Hernandez danced the night away at the "I Love New York" Homecoming dance with sophomore Kyle Bui-kema. "The music wasn't that great, but I made it fun by dancing with my friends," said Hernandez.



As senior Ben Reitz was called as one of the nominees for Homecoming Court, the football team made a scene and cheered him on. "Everyone was telling me that they voted for me," said Reitz, "so I knew I was going to win."

Juniors Julie Duvnjak, Janelle Owczarzak and Miryea Cisneros get pumped for Friday night's game by doing the "Rumble" cheer. The Pep Rally was boring, but I had a good time doing the Rumble," said Duvnjak.



Senior Eric Navarro dressed up on Black and Gold day with his girlfriend, senior Katie Blaire. "Homecoming was a waste of time this year, but I had fun dressing up with my girl, Katie," said Navarro.



Game On

Griffith celebrates HC with a game and dance. Which one is the fan favorite?

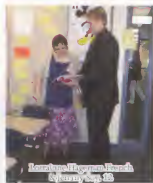
During Homecoming week, there are many activities that students participate in, like the Pep Rally, Spirit Week and annual pranks. All of these lead up to the big Friday Night football game and the Saturday night dance. Senior Nikki Rapka believed that the dance was the best part of Homecoming. "It was my Senior year and I didn't care what anyone thought, I went all out at the dance." However, Senior Maciek Szczepkowski was convinced that the game is what completed HC week. "Unlike last season, we beat Munster at the HC game. We got the bone, too."

"Homecoming was really hot but it was an awesome first experience." -Taylor Dunagan, 9



# Spirit Week

## 2011



Dress Up Day  
Kaitlyn Morgan & Brandon Garcia



College T-Shirt Day  
Aisha Morgan & Brandon Garcia



Ugly Sweater Day  
Jenna Candiano & Brandon Garcia



Twin Day  
Brandon Garcia & Jenna Candiano



Black and Gold Day  
Kaitlyn Morgan & Brandon Garcia



*"The world isn't ending, we're just taking over." - Senior Class 2012*

Playing the school song, the band accompanies the Pantherettes as they walk down Wiggs Street. "My favorite part of the parade was being able to perform in front of everyone," said senior band member, Aisha Morgan.



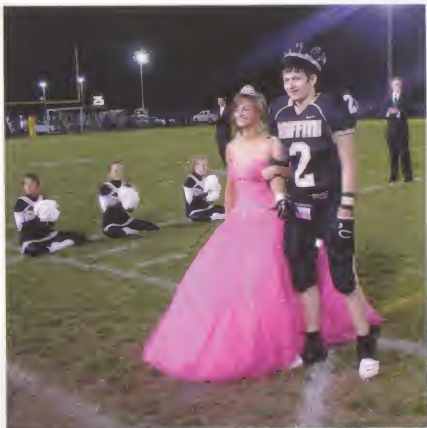


"The Big Apple" was the theme that the sophomores used to win this year's Homecoming float competition. "Making the flowers on our float was the hardest part, but it takes time to win and be the best," said sophomore Alexys Corona.

This year's Homecoming king and queen were seniors Ben Reitz and Taylor Steffan. "I was shocked when the announcer called my name. I had no expectations of winning, but it was really exciting," said Steffan.



Driving the mascot in her go-cart, freshman Melissa Ahlquist shows her Panther Pride during the Homecoming Parade. "I liked being able to drive down the street all crazy," said Ahlquist.



# Homecoming Court 2011



Taylor Steffan  
& Ean Plude



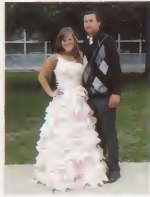
Shae Siokos  
& Donny Hoover



Emilee Trueblood  
& Cole Felde



Melinda Burk  
& Ben Reitz



Brooke Brinkley  
& Garrett Litke



*We will* always remember the horror and sadness of 9/11. It is a tragic piece of American history that we as a nation can *never forget.*

-Nick Stassin, 12

## From 2001 to 2011



Security within the airports as we knew it changed the day that the Twin Towers fell. Greater precautions were taken which, in some people eyes, is beyond what is needed and for others it is exactly what they need to ease their fears of traveling on world-wide planes. "Airport security nowadays is a lot more strict. It is a hassle for people traveling with kids or if you're running late. But at the same time, you feel safer because it's so strict that you don't think anything can go wrong," said junior Steven Marquez.



"Seeing my friend lose his dad on 9/11 made me see how important being a firefighter is. Now that this terrible thing has happened to us, people don't want to step up and become firefighters but I will!" said senior Lesley Pietsch.

"I've been in the National Guard for about five months now, and I was motivated to join in high school because of 9/11. When 9/11 happened, I didn't even know what was going on, but when I started getting older and started high school I knew a lot more and the reasons why we were attacked. Ever since my freshman year, I counted down the days to join the military. I knew that doing my service is the best way I could give back to the country and serve the respect back to civilians and heroes that sacrificed all on that infamous day. I joined because it felt like my duty and fate to join," said senior Joshua Bodnar.



# Where were you on



"I was in my second grade class with Mrs. Guy. She turned on the TV and we watched the towers falling on the news. I remember the whole school had a moment of silence. It was really upsetting even when I was that age."  
-Cali Lemus, 12

"I was four years old when the terrorist attack on 9/11 happened. At that time, I was living in a condo in Las Vegas. I do not remember much, but I do remember my baby sitter watching the TV and freaking out."  
-Kourtney Washick, 9



## September 11, 2001?

"When 9/11 occurred, I was thirty-two years old and working at GHS. I heard what was going on by the radio I had playing during class. I started getting worried since I knew people in DC who work for the FBI."  
-Jim Graff, Art



"I was in ninth grade at Munster High School. By second hour it was on all of the TVs. Some of us thought it was a movie that the teacher was showing. None of us realized how we would be watching it for months on the news."  
-Jenna Candiano, History

# From the World Trade Center

The World Trade Center in New York was also referred to as the Twin Towers. They were often seen as a symbol of international trade and as a world wide unity.  
"The Twin Towers were the stars of the New York Skyline. They were the foundation of the skyline. The Twin Towers were the first thing you saw flying in."  
-Sarah Cohen, Math



"Watching the Twin Towers slowly burn and fall is basically all I remember since I was in second grade when it happened. All of the dust, debris and people freaking out on the news was not a good picture to remember. I respect the brave firefighters running in and out of the buildings trying their best to help with the damage."  
-Ryan Avalos, 12



"I went to Ground Zero two years after the attack. While I was there, there were still people cleaning up. Where the towers stood was fenced in with piles of rubble. There was still an overpass you could use like before. I could not believe there was so much destruction in just eighteen miles."  
-Courtney Hargis, 12

# to Ground Zero



# Bring on all of the homework, projects, and research papers. We work hard in school five days a week to get a reward for the weekend. When it comes to Friday morning, we're all living for *the night*."

-Melinda Burk, 12

Just because the borders of Griffith are limited, doesn't mean that finding activities to do is limited too. There are many things to do in and around Griffith. From restaurants to shopping, to visiting near-by cities and towns, the number of things to do in and around Griffith is infinite.

For the younger kids in high school, finding someone to drive them places is never easy, especially when they want to do something farther away from home. Local hangouts are much more common for the underclassmen.

The majority of the GHS spends fall Friday nights at the school's football games. It gives the students a chance to hangout with friends, cheer on their team, and is a great way to kick off their weekend.

"I love going to all the games, home or away, and I always wear my brother's, (sophomore Nathan Reitz) jersey," said senior Billie Reitz.

For the upperclassmen who are lucky enough to have their license and a car to drive, weekends are a time of total freedom. Juniors and seniors who have their licenses go

many places. For instance, they have the chance to drive themselves and their friends to Six Flags Great America, Steak 'n' Shake, and even Chicago. However, it is much more popular to take the train!

"Since I have my license, I was able to go to Six Flags four times this past summer and fall with my boyfriend (junior Zach Grin) and friends," said junior Stephanie Younker.

Six Flags may be far for some, like junior Julie Duvnjak, who would rather stay close to home and drive around with friends.

"I always blast 'T.G.L.F.' by artist Katy Perry. My friends and I go almost everywhere together, and it is so much easier now being able to drive," said Duvnjak.

"Chicago isn't just around the corner, it takes time and planning to spend a whole day out there," said junior Jordan Gonzalez. Gonzalez has his license and goes to the city often with his girlfriend, sophomore Marisa Rios.

Some students at Griffith High School like to get in the Halloween spirit a bit early by going to haunted houses.

This year the YMCA, which was previously Franklin Elementary School, was turned into a haunted house for the public.

"The haunted house was super scary. It was scarier than Reaper's Realm. I was screaming the entire time," said sophomore Lauren Hernandez.

The haunted house lasted 10 to 15 minutes. The actors can call your name, run after you, and take pictures with you after the scaring was over.

Griffith High School students have many things to do on the weekend, from spending time at local restaurants to going out to the city with friends. Having your license isn't the only way to go places, but it gives students many more opportunities to have fun.



With controllers in hand, freshmen Trevor Steffan and Noah Duvnjak play FIFA '11 on the weekends. Steffan and Duvnjak are neighbors. "We grew up together, and always spend time together. We're best friends," said Duvnjak.

As senior Amy Russell waits to go out for the night, she plays with her minpin, Sophie. "I love my puppy. Whenever she sleeps in my bed, I always snuggle with her under my covers," said Russell.

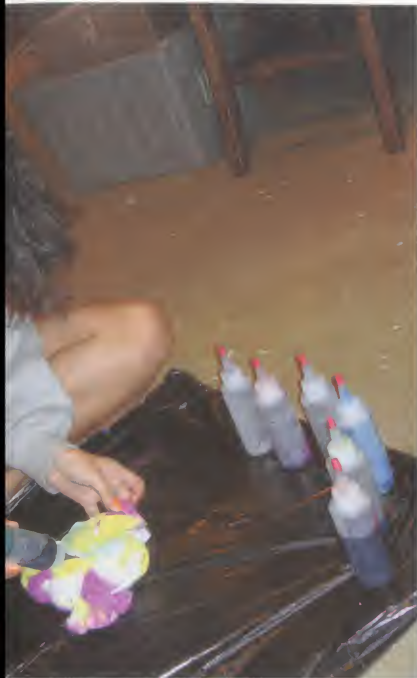


Getting into his hot tub, senior Zach Muller enjoys one of the last warm weekends in October. "On the weekends, since I have my car, I like to pick up girls and we go to the football games," said Muller. Muller also has spends free time wrestling.



Passing time on the weekend, senior Melinda Burk tie-dyes a shirt on her garage floor. "I really like tie-dyeing clothes. It's a good way to be creative and make something old look like it's brand new," said Burk.

Between hanging out with her friends and with her family, senior Ashley Brown spends time with her pet bird. "I love playing with Rongi. I especially love his colorful feathers," said Brown.



## Competing for fame

With seniors Donny Hoover playing bass, Robbie Szabo on vocals, Joel Kepchar as lead guitarist, and Nathan Bailey following on the drums, the band "All the Way" writes original songs, which placed them third in the Battle of the Bands. They have also played in other performances. "We started the band last March for the talent show. I was pretty nervous at first, but then the adrenaline kicked in," said Kepchar.





*All work* is terrible when you're in high school. Every job is minimum wage but maximum hours. We're living a life of "all work *and no play*"

-Brianna Nagel, 12

Transformation is inevitable, and happens in everyone person's life. A lot of maturation and growing up happens when a teen enters the doors of high school. This is where a good portion of the transformation happens, which will mold a teen into a young adult. There are many obstacles to overcome in order to complete the four years of high school and to enter their next chapter in life. Aside from being a teen, each student has to deal with their home life, school work, extra curriculars, and everyday difficulties. In today's economy everyone is trying to make ends meet. However, this adds an extra responsibility to most high school students' lives: working.

Having a part-time job as a teen has its pros, such as extra spending money, references for resumes, and a free life lesson in time management. On the other hand, having a job could mean less sleep and less time for school events. A job helps each student prioritize. Senior Miguel Valtierra said, "Even though I have a job and run track, school work is still my most important priority. If I miss a day of practice or work I

will do what is necessary to further my education."

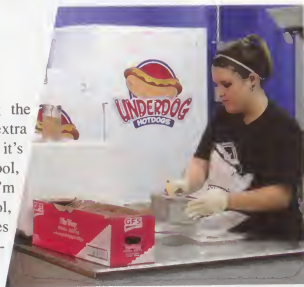
Regardless if a student carries the title of "student athlete" or has a "school to work permit", being a good student comes first. "It is hard to manage my time with school, work, and softball considering I have three dual credit classes. If I'm not at work, I'm usually doing homework," said junior Abbey Little. Having a job and going to school can be difficult, but some students take it as far as having two jobs, going to school, and still making time for their social life. Most teen girls want to spend their money they make on shopping and going out with their friends.

Jobs make teens feel more independent because they don't have to ask for money from their parents every time they go out, need gas, or want food. Junior Manon Carter said, "I got a job because I wanted responsibility and money to spend on shopping instead of having to ask my parents." Students who have jobs now won't be so overwhelmed when they get out of high school and into the real world. They will have already learned respect, responsibility, and what it's like to have priorities. Having a job does not only bring responsibility. It's an easy way for students to meet new people, learn new trades, and experience new things.

High school students are allowed only so many hours per week determined by their age, which helps them manage time and still have time to do homework, play sports, or hangout with friends. No matter what kind of job one has, where it is at, or who the employer is, a working student will surely gain something positive for the future.

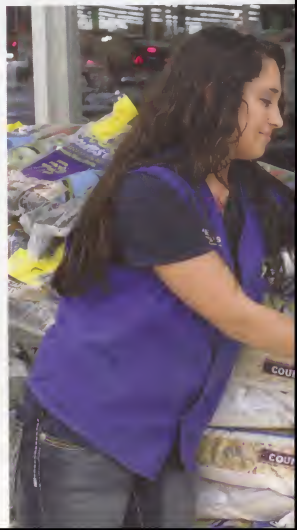
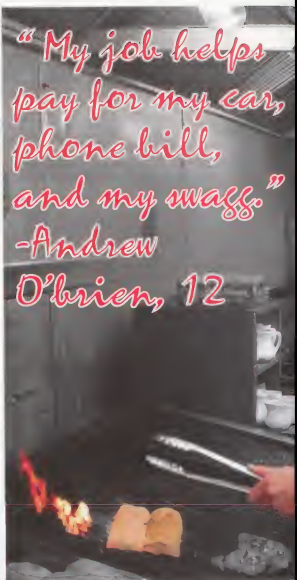
## 37 Work Hours

"I work many hours during the week because I want to have extra spending money. Sometimes it's hard to balance friends, school, and work but I'm glad that I'm able to see my friends at school, and that I have my priorities straight," said senior Nikki Ditrach.



"In between school and two jobs I still manage to have a life," said senior Ariana Suarez. Helping customers purchase items is just one of Ari Suarez's required duties.

*"My job helps pay for my car, phone bill, and my swagg."*  
-Andrew O'brien, 12





While senior Agnes O'Brien works at McDonald's, she restocks the apple juice and milk. "I enjoy working at McDonald's because you see a lot of people that you know and you get paid," said O'Brien.

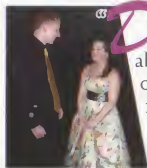


Putting together a cold cut combo sandwich, junior Cindy McInerney listens to what her customer wants. "Keeping a job in high school is tough because I have so many things going on in my life between school, soccer, friends and family."

During her late afternoon job at Bridges Scoreboard, junior Sarah Kuna cleans the tables off. "I like the people that I work with, they make my shift go by faster. If my friends didn't work there, I wouldn't enjoy it," said Kuna.



"I work the front desk at the YMCA. I always get to meet new people." - Jame Rex, 11



*"Dancing is what Turnabout is all about! I love getting all dressed up, taking tons of pictures, and having a great time with my friends all night long."*

-Shae Siokos, 12

This year, Griffith High School's Turnabout dance was held on Friday, January 13th, at Avalon Manor. The theme was "Just a Kiss" and the colors of the night were blue and silver.

Despite the fear of unfortunate events, seeing as the dance was being held on Friday the 13th, the night turned out to be a huge success for everyone who attended. "I enjoyed Turnabout. I danced with a ton of people, and I thought the music was really good," said sophomore Rebecca Perez.

Students were permitted to leave school after their fifth period to get ready for the dance. This extra allotted time turned out to be very helpful for many girls! "I spent about two hours getting ready for Turnabout. I left school early and it was really helpful," said senior Sarah Clark.

Most boys attending the dance, however, did not take nearly as much time to prepare as their dates did. "I left school early but didn't need that much time to get ready, so I went to eat and took a nap first," said junior Brett Brinkley.

While getting prepared for Turnabout is supposed to be enjoyable, it proved to be a hassle

for some. "My dress came in three days before the dance and it was way too big. I had to get it altered really fast and it still didn't fit after I got it altered, but it worked," said junior Sarah Galambos.

"My group was supposed to take pictures at 4:45, but I didn't even leave my make-up appointment at Ulta until 5:00, and I still had to get dressed and everything," said junior Julie Duvnjak.

Some GHS students, instead of asking their Griffith friends or boyfriends, brought students to Turnabout from other schools in the area. "I brought a girl from Munster to our Turnabout. I liked it because it was different, and she was cool and open to meet new people. She wasn't too clingy either," said junior Angel Nunez.

Each year, it is a tradition for the girls to ask the boys to Turnabout rather than the other way around. Many girls enjoy this process, because they're able to choose their date rather than being asked. "I like how the girl asks the guy, because the guy gets to ask the girl to Prom and Homecoming, so it changes it up," said freshman Madison Plebanski. Many girls, however, don't like having to ask their dates. "I'd much rather be asked to dances. It's scary asking a guy," said sophomore Sara Fisch.

Some girls at GHS like to be creative when given the chance to ask their friend or boyfriend to the dance. "I asked my boyfriend, (junior) Zach Grin like four times because he kept saying it wasn't 'cute enough.' We were volunteering at a pancake breakfast together and I made the pancakes into a 'T' and a 'B' shape. He said yes after that, I guess all of the ways combined finally worked," said junior Stephanie Younker.

Turnabout 2012 definitely turned out to be a successful night of blue and silver, dancing, and many memories.



Dancing barefoot to "Cotton-Eyed Joe" during Turnabout, sophomore Andy Duhon laughs with senior Lesley Pletsch and sophomore Shannon Kunka. "I love dancing to that song. It's a drama tradition," said Duhon.

Getting ready for Turnabout on Friday, January 13, sophomore Tessa Trueblood carefully applies mascara. "I always get ready with my sister, (senior) Emilee [Trueblood]. I love getting ready for dances," said Trueblood.







Dancing with her friends to "The Cupid's Shuffle," senior Melissa Miller strikes a pose on the dance floor, "I danced the whole time because it was my last Turnabout. I wanted to go out with a bang," said Miller.

Taking a break from dancing, sophomore Christian Adams laughs with sophomore Ashley Arndt. "I had a great time at Turnabout this year with my girlfriend," said Adams.



## Memorable dances during Turnabout

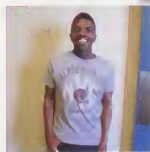


"My most memorable dance of the night was dancing to "Blackout" by Breathe Carolina with (senior) Alysia Metsch."

-Jordan Banis, 12

"My most memorable dance during Turnabout was an eight person slow dance to "Enchanted" by Taylor Swift. I danced to it with my whole group of friends."

-Jesus Aldape, 11

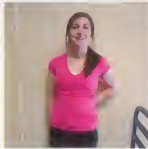


"My most memorable dance was definitely during the song "Shots," because I loved jumping up and down."

-Timmy Bullard, 12

I liked dancing to "Pour Some Sugar On Me" with (sophomore) Erica Yost. There was sugar all over the floor."

-Ally Krajnak, 10



"Me and my friends had a slow dance circle going on and seniors came in and started dancing on us. It was very memorable!"

-Adam Hoover, 9

"Turnabout was a great night, I must say!" -Ean Plude, 12

Taking a break from dancing, seniors Jordanna Banis, Olivia Gates, and Alysia Metsch sit down for a snack and drink. "I really like dances and I'm going to miss them a lot," said Banis.



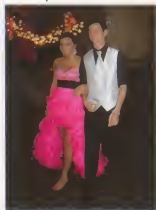
# 2012 Turnabout Court



Sara Joyce  
&  
Tyler Lipski

"It was an honor for me to be on court."  
-Sara Joyce

Victoria Smith  
&  
Tyler Palinca  
"The best part of being on court was that I was with my friends."  
-Tyler Palinca

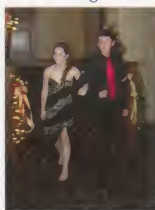


Sydney Hilbrich  
&  
Brandon Garcia

"I had such a great time being on court because of my friends."  
-Brandon Garcia

"I was so excited to win turnabout king. I was shocked."  
-Matt Csonka

Emily Duhon  
&  
Matt Csonka  
(King)



Tessa Trueblood  
(Queen)  
&  
David Schell

"Being on court and winning was a great experience for me."  
-Tessa Trueblood

# 'Senior Turnabout 12

"Even though this was the second Turnabout that I ever went to during high school, it was by far the best. I had a better experience than I thought I would. It was an overall great night and one that will be remembered," said senior Nick Brummet.



*"Dances will always be a memorable event during high school"*

*-Ben Reitz, 12*



After Turnabout, many groups gather at restaurants to get a bite to eat. "It was crowded at Olive Garden, but it felt good to relax after the dance with my group of friends," said junior Kelsie Lunsford.

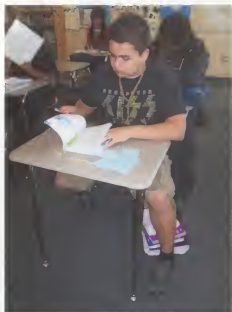


Dancing his heart out, senior Robbie Szabo grooved to the music. "I was going a little over board but I didn't have a care in the world. I was having too good of a time," said Szabo.

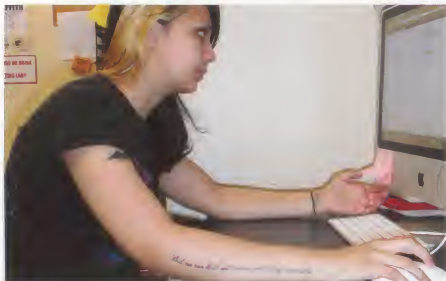
Talking with his girlfriend, senior Shawn Gallina talks about their plans for the rest of the night. "Even though I'm a senior, this was the first Turnabout that I have ever been to. I had a great time," said Gallina.

"This years turnabout dance was by far the best." -Anthony Carter, 11

Kiss is one of junior Khristian Ayala's favorite bands. He has everything from shirts to mini action figures. "They have really great music," said Ayala "I love what they stand for."



Tattoos are something that greet junior Selena Zamudio every day. "They express what I like and things I think are important." One of the six tattoos reads: Bid me run & I will strive with things impossible. "They all mean a lot to me," said Zamudio



## What is Your Secret Obsession?



"I love the art of folding paper, also known as origami. It's really entertaining." -Alec Moseley, 10



"I'm an absolute neat freak. Everything has to be as clean as possible." -Chris Pirtle, 11

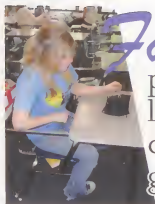
"I absolutely love the band Paramore! I don't know of anything by them that I don't like." -Jocelyn Serna, 9



"I really enjoy being on the computer and running to different places." -Ryan Zubrick, 12







*Facing our* phobias is a big part of high school. We're constantly being forced into situations we don't like, but you have to learn to grow up and face your *fears*.

-Maegan Glass, 11

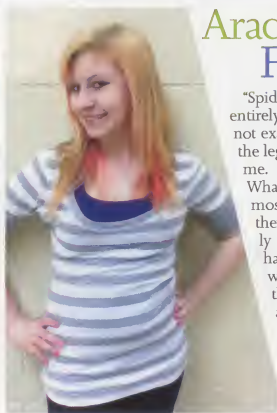


Having a fear of gargoyles is uncommon and has no official term. But senior Chance's Walker is terrified of gargoyles. "I'm afraid gargoyles are going to steal my soul," said Walker.

"The sound of people gagging is just gross and it almost always means that they're going to throw up," said sophomore Sarah Gates about her phobia. "It's just plain disgusting."



Claustrophobia is the fear of small spaces. For senior Kalissa Greenlaw, it is a phobia she has to cope with every day. "I like my personal space," said Greenlaw. "I don't like to be crowded at all. It makes me feel cramped and trapped. When I'm in the hallway, I feel like I can't go anywhere."



## Arachnophobia: Fear of Spiders

"Spiders have always freaked me out. I'm not entirely sure when the fear first started, and I'm not exactly sure why. Maybe it's the fangs or all the legs that freak me out. Either way, they scare me. Even the fake rubber ones freak me out! What really scares me the most is the fact that most of them are poisonous. Meaning that if they bite you, you could die or get seriously hurt. Granted, in most cases, they would have to bite you more than just once. But with all those eyes and legs, plus the fact that they seem to move faster than I can get away, I try my best to steer clear of all the spiders I see, especially the bigger ones. That makes it so the spider never gets the chance to even consider biting me."

-Rose Smith, 9



*"We've got to show our support for our friends and classmates involved in sports. We'll never be able to act this crazy after we leave high school. It's our chance to demonstrate our school spirit."*

-David Schell, 10

Each year, Griffith High School holds different functions in which students come out and show their spirit. Most commonly, students go to the girls' and boys' basketball games dressed as celebrities such as Snooki, Ke\$ha, or Minnie Mouse to come and support their teams.

The girls' first and second sectional games were the most popular games to dress up at this year. Besides dressing up, the students decide to pick a theme for each home game. The traditional theme is 'Beach Theme' in which all of the students come in bathing suits, sunglasses, pool toys, and towels. Also, during the football season when the boys' made it to sectionals against Morton High School, many students went to the game dressed in all black clothing for the annual 'Black Out Game'. "I was really cold during the football game, but my friends and I thought that painting our bodies was needed to help show support for the boys," said junior Jesse Yarnelle.

For Homecoming this year, instead of having the usual activities, such as the pie fling, the relay race, and musical chairs, the high school

held a pep rally for all of the seniors that were on court. Dur-

ing Homecoming week, there was a theme for each of the days.

Monday was dress up day, Tuesday was college t-shirt day, Wednesday was ugly sweater day, Thursday was twin day, and Friday was black and gold day. Usually for every student that dresses up they would receive points, but since the pep rally was changed, all of the students that did participate were in the running to see which class had the most school spirit.

This year, the high school held the 5th annual wheelchair basketball game in honor of disabilities awareness month. The teams that participated in the basketball game were the Rollin' Hoosiers, which is made up of some of the disabled students that attend Griffith, and the Bulls wheelchair team. Both of the teams play against the middle school and high school basketball teams to show students that even though they are disabled, they are capable of doing the same things that anyone else can. This year, one talented student designed a t-shirt that all of the players wore. The designer of the shirt, junior James Leslie, said, "Designing the shirt was the best part of disabilities month because it allowed me to be creative."

The quote on the t-shirt says "Speak to me, not my disabilities" which means that you should talk to each student the same, no matter who they are because we are all equal. Students were able to purchase the t-shirts to support all of our disabled students that attend Griffith High School. For all of the students that purchased the shirt, their names were put into a raffle that would put them and their families into a running to win a full year gym membership at the new YMCA. All together, the school raised 2,000 dollars that was given to the Rollin' Hoosiers.



## Who do you superfan?

This year, the usual Homecoming activities were changed into a pep rally for all of the Homecoming court members. "Having a pep rally allowed each class to show our school spirit for our individual grade levels. So in a way, we were superfaning for our senior class. To show our spirit, we made shirts that said 'We love our seniors.'"

-Morgan White, 12



During the Homecoming parade, FCCLA showed their school spirit by walking their dogs. For each dog, students paid five dollars in order to give money to the humane society. "I liked walking the dogs and being able to talk to my friends," said freshman Jared Braddam.





"I like superfanning because it makes the game more fun, plus it gets the players pumped when we all cheer and wear costumes," said freshman Aaron Brown. For the girls' first sectional game at the high school, most of the students dressed up in costumes to support the girls.

Each year during Homecoming, the class councils show their school spirit by supporting their class. "Being in the parade built up our spirit for Homecoming week, which made it more fun for everyone," said junior Abbey Little.



For the girls' varsity soccer team, two seniors, Ashley Noojin and Haley Marshall, came to the senior night game to support their friend, senior Shi Fassoth. "It was my best friends' senior night. Of course I am going to be there to support her. I just love her that much," said Noojin.



During the boys' varsity sectional championship for football, some of the students went to Morton High School to support the boys. "I was really cold during the whole game, but I still had fun cheering for all of the players," said senior Ed Clay.

"I love to superfan with my friends at football games." -Leslie Martinez, 12



**Showing our** skills off is so rewarding. The butterflies before you perform are definitely worth the cheers of the crowd at the end. I just want to show the world my **talent.**  
-Alice Duhon, 12

For students who love singing, dancing, reading poetry, or performing magic tricks, participating in coffee night or the talent show are both great ways for students to express themselves. It gives the performers a chance to show off their talents and what they proud of being able to do.

Coffee night, which was held on Thursday, October 6, 2011, was the first event of the year where students can show off their artistic side. Twenty different acts sang songs, and seniors Kallie Lastagarkov and Katalina Villalpando performed a set of magic tricks.

"When we thought of doing magic tricks, it was a lot more fun than I thought it was going to be. I'm really glad I decided to do it," said Villalpando.

Many of the performers at coffee night this year were freshmen, when normally freshmen are too shy this early in their high school years.

"Singing is my favorite thing to do and I love the feeling of being on stage, performing in front of people," said freshman Amanda Stelk.

The talent show auditions were held in the

auditorium on April 4th and 5th. After narrowing down the auditions from over twenty acts, the judges from student council decided on twelve performances for the actual talent show. The performers had almost two months to prepare for the show, which was held of May 18th.

The talent show was sponsored by the student council. The profits made from the students attending the show, which cost \$4 per student, was put towards the homecoming fund for next year to buy decorations and food for the dance.

This year's talent show was hosted by senior Ryan Graan and it was his first year with this duty. "Hosting the show was a big responsibility, but I feel like I did a pretty good job," said Graan.

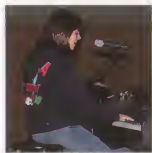
The show was judged by Shannon Schiedel, family consumer science, Officer Ghrist, and JP Schroeder, English. "I really enjoyed judging the show and hope to get to do it again next year," said Schiedel.

Almost all of the performers at this year's talent show were different than those who performed last year, with the exception of the band *All the Way*. The band, *The Russians*, performed "A Song to Our Fathers" by *Explosions in the Sky* dedicated their song to Mark Rex, who passed away in the summer of 2011.

Senior Shi Fassoth played the piano and sang to "Terrible Things" by *Mayday Parade* for her last high school performance. "Singing in front of people used to be a fear of mine, but over the last few years I've gotten over it. I've been on stage so many times during my high school career that it just comes as a second nature to me now. It's one of the things I'm going to miss the most about high school," said Fassoth.



## On a scale from 1-10, how high was your fear?



"On a scale from 1-10, my fear was an 8. I learned my song the week of coffee night and didn't have enough time to practice. But I felt accomplished after I performed and it was over."  
-Janna Darnell- Mendez, 9

"On a scale from 1-10, my fear was a 3. I've played in front of people my whole life and it's not scary to me anymore. Singing has become more natural than talking to people."  
-Alex Diaz, 11



Performing "Fix You" by Coldplay with junior Ross Myers on guitar, senior Amelia Morales sings the chorus. "It's a song that's very personal to both Ross and I, and even more so now that Mr. Covarrubias is leaving," said Morales.



Waiting to find out the winner of the talent show, junior Miryca Cisneros stands nervously on-stage. "Before I performed, I was pacing back and forth backstage. But once I started playing the piano, I was in my zone," said Cisneros.

With his band *Blind Tiger*, sophomore Brian Stinnett plays the drums for the song "Torn Sawyer". "I've been playing the drums for awhile and was really excited for my band to be able to play in the talent show this year," said Stinnett.



Along with senior Donny Hoover and sophomore Cornelius Jemison, sophomore Ezekial Del Val performs "Time of Your Life" by *Green Day*. "I'm not afraid to sing in front of people, so doing coffee night is no big deal for me," said Del Val.



Playing her harp to "Sawdust and Diamonds," freshman Alana Swopes performed vocals along with the instrumental. "Playing in the talent show was a great experience for me. I had a really good time and glad I decided to," said Swopes.

## And the winner is...



**2nd Place:**  
All the Way

**Talent:**  
Band



**3rd Place:**  
James Leslie

**Talent:**  
Piano Solo



**1st Place:**

Ross Myers and Matt Seliums  
**Talent:**  
Comedy Act





*"Staying close with someone is a hard thing to do in high school. Whether it's a best friend, a boyfriend, or just a face in the hall, we're all **Connected.**"*  
-Lauren Hernandez, 10

Going to school can be a stressful task as it is, but knowing that your father is the one that is in charge might add even more to that stress level. At the same, it might seem more comforting for some people to know that he is there for you at the beginning of your high school experience.

Freshman Elizabeth Morikis, daughter of Peter Morikis, superintendent of Griffith Public Schools, felt a little weird starting off her high school years by walking down the hall and seeing her dad's face; even more than she ever did at home.

"That's one of the other things that I didn't like at first. I felt as if I saw my dad all the time. It's a good feeling to see him, but I would also like time on my own. I'm used to it now," said senior John Morikis.

Both Elizabeth and her brother John felt the same way about having their dad at school with them, so that way if they ever need him his office is right down the hallway. "The only thing I dislike about my dad being at school is that people think that you get special treatment, which you don't," said Elizabeth.

All throughout high school, you go through different stages of gaining and losing friends. High school is the time where you really discover who will always be by your side through thick and thin. Seniors Cole Felde and Austin Foster have had to go through this experience, but they have stuck through it. The two first met because Felde's mom and Foster's dad were good friends during high school and ever since they were three years old they have been best friends. "Since we have been good friends for such a long time, Cole has basically become my brother. I know his tendencies, what he likes, and what he doesn't like. I know pretty much all there is to know about the kid," said Foster.

Being able to be friends with someone for such a long time makes each person gain a different kind of connection with that person. Soon after being friends with that person you begin to believe that you cannot imagine your life without them, just as Foster explained. Since high school is now coming to an end for the both of them, they plan to continue their friendship all throughout college and for the rest of their lives. "I plan on being friends with him until the day we die. We are going to be brothers for life," said Foster.

Even though being able to communicate and see each other might become a struggle for the two after they graduate (Foster is hopefully attending Indiana University and Felde at IUPUI), they both plan on making it work as much as possible. "I plan on having tons of skype dates with him, just so I can see his cute little face and hear his wonderful voice. I know that if I end my day that way, the whole college experience will go by faster, and it will make me a lot happier," said Felde.



*"I am fortunate to be able to see my children at school and during their out of school programs. It's a real plus." - Peter Morikis, Superintendent*

# The web of Griffith High School



Senior Donny Hoover is brothers with freshman Adam Hoover



Freshman Adam Hoover's best girl friend is freshman Kourtney Washick



Freshman Kourtney Washick is on the cheerleading squad with senior Jenny Lanfear

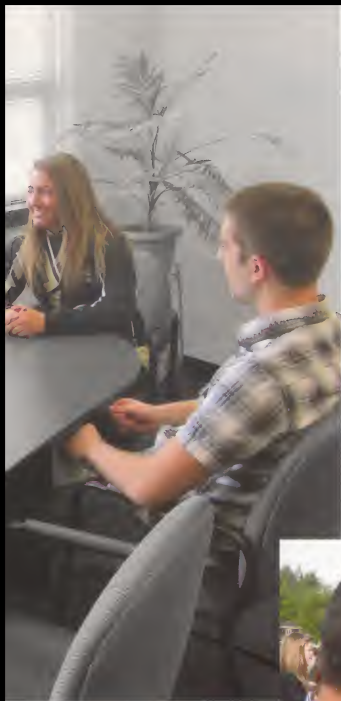


Senior Jenny Lanfear lives down the street from senior Brittany Anderson



Senior Brittany Anderson lives across the street from senior Donny Hoover





While handing his girlfriend, junior Sierra Gutierrez a Hershey Kiss, the two shared a laugh at the lunch table. "Besides at school, I rarely get to see her because we both have work and are involved in sports," said senior Jake Schnoor.



Laughing with her friends by her locker, freshman Jenna Zubik enjoys the rest of the passing period by socializing. "I went to Munster at the beginning of the semester but I came back to Griffith because I missed my friends. I enjoy talking to them," said Zubik.



During the unexpected fire drill, juniors Jeanette Salazar and her boyfriend Khristian Ayala talked about their plans for the upcoming weekend. "Homecoming was that weekend so we were talking about plans for what to do afterwards," said Salazar.



# Remembering

everything that people say at random times is really entertaining. My friends have a ton of inside jokes, like yelling '10:17,' calling Butter (Robert Fleishman, 12) 'Thur Thur,' and saying 'Thought it was!' all the time. I want to be able to remember

*every word.*

-Cole Felde, 12

## Beware the "Bloufit..."

This year, the student body at GHS has become strangely critical of students wearing outfits of only one color, such as black pants and a black shirt. The term "bloufit" has been coined - meaning an outfit of all black. Likewise, a "groufit" is a grey outfit, and a "poufit" is a purple outfit.

1 "I like matching with the same color on top and bottom, because it adds swagg to my life."

- Morgan Dillon, 12

2 "I wore this because it is comfortable. I had actually never heard of a bloufit before."

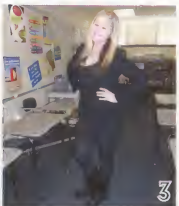
- Brittini McLemore, 12

3 "I wore a bloufit because I had to dress up for a speech I had to give and this was the first outfit I saw."

- Jamie Rex, 11

4 "I usually wear black clothes, because it is my favorite color."

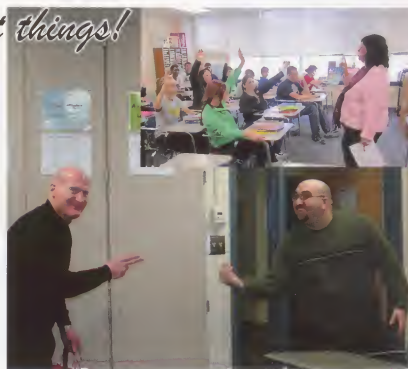
- Carlton Valliant, 12



## Teachers say the darndest things!

Every teacher has their own teaching style. Some use games, group work, papers, projects, but the most exciting way is mind catching sayings. Jim Pickett, history and James Ford, Spanish, are the two well remembered teachers when it comes to sayings. "Laughter prevents me from going crazy," said Ford. Some of the sayings from Pickett are "It's going down like a Young Jock song," "Wacky wild stuff," "I have to, if not they [administration] are going to catch me riding dirty," or "That's lame with a side of beef stew."

Another teacher at Griffith that has a different saying is Shelia Vaclavik, English. Whenever her class starts to get loud during work time she says "Raise your hand if your talking." The funny thing is no one usually raises their hand even though people are talking.



# The Twitter #hashtag

As Twitter became more and more popular throughout 2012, the hashtag began to spread from Twitter updates to Facebook statuses and text messages. Originally on Twitter, hashtagging a word or a phrase cause it to become a link. The link then leads to every Twitter update that has used the same hashtag. For example, clicking on #JustinBieber would lead someone to every Twitter update written about Justin Bieber. However, hashtagging has become more of a trendy phrase than a helpful link on the social network. Students often say "hashtag" while speaking with friends or even in texts. "Some people use it to describe their feelings instead of a trend," said junior Emily Kuzmanoff. Some examples are "My mom just made me apple pie! #winning," "Elf #that'smymovie," or "Going to the park at midnight with my friends. #middleschoolmemories," said junior Deziree Walker.



## quotes to remember

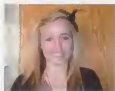
### 2011-2012

#### "Deuces!"



"When leaving a place I put up the peace sign, pucker my lips and then say deuces!"  
- Destiny Moore, 10

"Walking in the hallway doing deuces to Chloe [Norton] as an inside joke."  
- Stefanie Soy, 11



#### "That's a gill."

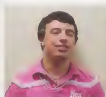


"A thing we do when someone says something stupid. The other person swipes the back of the neck."  
- Josh Terzari, 9

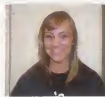
"Jordan: My hair is nappy.  
Sarah: No, it's just not combed.  
Jordan: That's a gill!"  
- Jordan Dillon, 9



#### "That awkward moment when..."



"Him: Well, I'm going to sleep.  
Her: Ok, good night.  
Him: Love you.  
Her: Thought I did."  
- Mike Delpino, 10



"You put your hands over a person's face, thinking it's your friend, but then your friend walks passed while the girl whose eyes you covered just looks at you." - Christy Slagle, 9

"When the girl from the other team tries to make a shot, and thought she made it, but majorly failed. Thought it was!" -Tyler Lipski, 10



"Your teacher accuses you of cheating and you tell them it's teamwork." - Jenny Lanfar, 12





# The last dance of the year is always the best one. Last year's Prom set the bar high, but this year's was even better. It was my favorite high school dance."

-Vicki Solivais, 12

On Friday, May 4th, last year's prom king, senior Tyler Yost, and queen, senior Emiliee Trueblood, announced this year's prom king and queen; juniors Jesus Adalpe and Taylor Louie.

"I know my mom would have been proud of me," Louie said of her mother who passed away in 2011.

Louie and Adalpe danced to "Dancing Away With my Heart" by Lady Antebellum, for the first song after their crowning.

"I didn't know so many people voted for me. I had no idea I was going to be on court, let alone win. It didn't really click when they called my name," said Louie.

When she got home that night and told her dad and brother, they were extremely excited and very proud of her. When Louie's friends, who didn't go to prom, found out she won prom queen, they went to her house and decorated her room and car. She was very surprised, but happy when she got home.

"My prom date, Steven Sharp, was great and so was my king, Jesus," said Louie.

Adalpe was also surprised that he won. "I was shocked but honored that so many people

voted for me to be prom king," said Adalpe.

During their crowning dance, Louie and Adalpe felt awkward with everyone standing around them, watching them dance, and taking pictures. "It was really weird having everyone stare at Taylor and I so we just looked at each other and tried to make it as least awkward as possible," said Adalpe.

Louie was very nervous the whole week before prom. When Louie gets nervous, her knees start to shake. Her friends nicknamed her knees "Weak Wendys." Junior Brett Brinkley had to calm her down at the dance before the court walked onto the stage. "If Brett didn't calm me down, I would have had a panic attack," said Louie.

"I was happy that I got to share the glory of winning with Taylor," Adalpe said. "I felt like a celebrity."

The celebrity feel fit right with this year's prom theme: "A Night in Hollywood."

Junior class council met once a week for an entire month to plan the prom theme. The group ended up with three choices for the theme: glitter and black lights, Bollywood, and Hollywood. "A lot of people in class council are very opinionated, but somehow we came together to find a good theme," said junior Sarah Galambos.

In order to agree on a theme, the group conducted a hidden vote. In the end, class council president, junior Alyssa Melchor, announced that the Hollywood theme had the most votes.



## '12 Senior Prom

Senior Rachelle Fogarty has been to prom two times; junior and senior year. This year's prom was much better than last year for her since she spent half the dance in the bathroom crying because her ex boy friend was hanging out with his ex girl friend. "This year was so much fun. I loved the music but it's upsetting that it was my last night to look like a princess," said Fogarty.







In the middle of the crowd, senior Tiffany Burbridge dances with senior Garrett Walter. "It was my first prom and I would definitely do it again if I had the chance," said Burbridge.

While taking a break from dancing, senior Jamesha Estell and her friend, senior Alyssa Delgado, talk about how good the food was. "This prom was the best because of how great everyone looked," said Estell.



Talking after dinner, seniors Shi Fassoth and Robbie Megquier discuss their plans for the weekend.

"We had a great night together and it was a wonderful last senior dance," said Megquier.



"I think bringing my best friend to prom with me was a much better idea than bringing a boyfriend," said junior Ciara Kroslock. "It was awesome that he came in from Iowa to see me."

Looking for more grapes, junior Jazmine Bell gets the fruit she likes from the fruit table. "The food was pretty good. The fruit was my favorite because it's sweet and yummy in my tummy," said Bell.

## What you thought of *Prom 2012?*



"I had a swell time because I got to spend my senior prom with my friends," said senior Shawn Gal.



"The dance wasn't great but I enjoyed going to the Dells with my friends," said senior Ryan Biegel.



"I liked the music because they played diverse songs," said junior Daizja Hill.



To add more excitement to their kayak adventure, juniors Emma Blackard and Miryrea Cisneros sang songs. "My favorite song that we sang was 'Gold Digger'. We kept adding the word kayak into parts of the song to make us laugh" said Blackard.

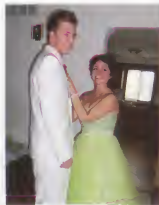
In order to get her family's pontoon boat ready to drive back to the dock, junior Stephanie Younker retrieved the anchor. "The morning after prom, my boyfriend, friends, and I drove up to my family's cottage. We went fishing and drove the golf cart around," said Younker. Her cottage is in Decatur, Michigan, on Lake of the Woods.



*"Being outdoors and on the lake made the weekend more enjoyable."*  
-Thomas Kudyba, 11



## Rate your date



Destiny Barajas, 11  
Date: Andrew Pelot, 10

"He was a good date, he got me drinks, held my chair out, and never stopped dancing."

**My Rate: 9.5**

Andy Duhon, 11  
Date: Ann Ficht, 11

"My date was funny, a great dancer, and she looked amazing #hashtagyolo."

**My Rate: 11**



After their exhausting prom week-ing, seniors Austin Foster, Andrew O'Brien, and Ryan Biegel stopped to get a bite to eat at IHop. "Those pancakes that I ate were amazingly good," said Biegel.

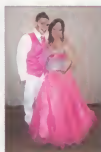
# Prom Court 2012

## King & Queen

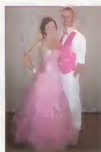
Jesus Aldape &  
Taylor Louie

"It was magical being with my queen and winning," said Aldape.

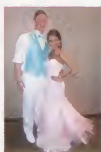
"I had an awesome prom court partner, Brett Brinkley, and winning with Jesus Aldape was amazing," said Louie.



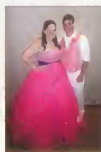
Jesus Aldape  
&  
Miryea Cisneros



Brooke Pospychala  
&  
Jordan Long



Austin Brown  
&  
Janelle Owczarzak



Taylor Louie  
&  
Brett Brinkley



Khristian Ayala  
&  
Julie Duvnjak



Taking their scores from their long night of bowling at Set Um Up lanes senior Kalie Lastagarkov and her boyfriend Logan Denny try to figure out who won. "The dance was absolutely amazing, it was by far the best dance that I went to all through out high school," said Lastagarkov.



"It was so cool to go to prom as a freshman." -Justin Villalobos, 9



*Our final* year of high school is coming to an end. It's hard to believe all of the memories and friends we've made. It's going to be tough to say *good-bye.*

-Erynn Abram, 12

Four years ago the Class of 2012 was starting their freshman year, and had no idea that their high school career would fly by. All the games, dances, activities, sports, staying up late finishing their homework, or studying for a test; they made it through the good and the bad times. Finally all their hard work paid off as they graduated on Sunday, June 3rd in the Main Gym at two o'clock. "Graduating just doesn't seem real, it probably won't kick in until the fall when we are back in school," said senior Jennifer Teasdale.

At graduation the Chorale had to sing the "The Star Spangled Banner" without Eddie Covarrubias, choir director, because he received a new job on a cruise ship. Senior student director Brooke Brinkley led the Chorale to sing the song. "It was really sad to sing for the last time as a group, especially since Mr. C. wasn't there to direct us," said senior Sarah Guistolis.

Principal Bonnie Manuel recited the introductions and she ended her speech with "Have a great panther day, rawr (clawing the air)". Next Manuel addressed the

Class of 2012, and then the Salutatorian senior Megan Tuttle, Valedictorian senior Joel Kepchar, and Class President senior Guistolis gave their speeches. Finally it was time for Michelle Udchitz, Class Council Sponsor, to present the class and Dr. Peter Morikis, Superintendent, and Griffith High School Board of Trustees gave the seniors their diplomas. There were three graduates, seniors John Morikis, Morgan White, and Rachel Garastik that were able to receive their diploma from their parents that were on the school board.

While senior Shae Siokos was walking up the steps to the stage to receive her diploma, she "tripped" up the stairs and fell on to her stomach on the stage. She did this to honor her brother Steven Siokos, who passed away in 2010. Her brother Steven, who graduated in the class of 2007, had fallen at his graduation ceremony, and then in 2010 her other brother, Shawn Siokos, fell for Steven, so Shae continued the tradition.

Once every senior got back to their seats, Dr. Morikis pronounced the class to be officially graduated and everyone clapped. "Overall graduation was successful and I was nervous, but excited to get my diploma," said senior Kyair Frye.

For some, graduation is exciting because it marks the end of high school. For others, however, it is very emotional, especially for those who were very close to senior Mark Rex, a classmate who passed away on July 21, 2011. Senior Ashley Noojin had the idea of having all the seniors wear a green ribbon for Rex. "We did it because a lot of people were close to him, and it's hard to graduate without him, so the ribbon makes it seem like we graduated with him here," said Noojin. At the end of Guistolis's speech she had a moment of silent for Rex. The Class of 2012 switched their tassels, said good-bye to Griffith High School, and began their first step toward the rest of their lives.



## Valedictorian Joel Kepchar



As tradition, the officers of the senior class gave a speech at the banquet. "I was never told to write a speech for the banquet, so I ended up writing it on a napkin that night, but it went well," said senior Michelle Lesniewski.

Throwing his cap in the air with his classmates, senior Robert Fleishman had one final celebration with his fellow graduates. "It felt good to throw my cap because it continued a graduation tradition," said Fleishman.







Putting a ribbon on to remember senior Mark Rex, senior Kelsey Bonewits and Chance's Walker prepare themselves to go to the graduation ceremony. "I thought it was a really thoughtful idea for the ribbons, because we are keeping Rex part of our memories and graduation," said Walker.

## Class Officers:

President: Sarah Guistolisi  
 Vice President: Michelle Lesniewski  
 Secretary: Stacie Hansen  
 Treasurer: Emilee Trueblood  
 Class Sponsors: Eddie Covarrubias,  
 Michelle Udchitz,  
 Russ Radtke

Listening to Bonnie Manuel, principal, give her speech, senior Austin Foster sits with his classmates, eagerly waiting to get his diploma. "Sitting there with my fellow graduates waiting to receive my diploma was a very bittersweet moment in my life," said Foster.



# Senior class information

**Class Size:** 226

**Class Flower:** Mystery Lily

**Class Colors:** Black and Gold

**Class Song:** "My Wish" by Rascal Flatts

**Class Motto:** "We came together as strangers but we leave as eternal friends."

**Senior Banquet:** April 26, 2012

**Graduation Date:** June 3, 2012

## What's in your future?

**College:**  
 Baker College

**Major:**  
 Food and Beverage  
 Hospitality

**Reason why:**  
 I love the food industry and interacting with people.

"Success is what drives me. I want to help others, be successful and have some type of an organizational role. I love the food industry, so being a part of the food and beverage management has everything I love in one job."

-George Walker, 12



While enjoying the hot day outside instead of attending her regular classes, senior Chloe Oliver has a chat with her friends on the football field. "It was so great to get together with the people we've been with on this big adventure through high school," said Oliver.

After picking up his cap and gown, senior Tyler Morrison looks to the future with his college aspirations.

"In the fall, I will be attending Valparaiso to study Biology," said Morrison.



# Senior Cookout

**Breakfast in the cafeteria 8:00 a.m.-8:45 a.m.**



**Rehearsal 9:00 a.m.-10:45 a.m.**



Waiting in line to receive his cap and gown, senior Ryan Bluhm remembers all his great times he had in high school. "It feels like just yesterday I was a freshman and now I'm graduating, class of 2012," said Bluhm.

**Cookout and entertainment 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.**



**Class photo 10:45 a.m.-11:15 a.m.**





Experiencing the perks of being a senior, Ryan Graan reminisced about past times that he and his group of friends shared throughout the four years of high school. "The senior day was pretty relaxing and the cookout was cool, too," said Graan.

# Senior Superlatives

**Best personality**



Stephanie Brandner & Jacob Schnoor

**Best dressed**



Chloe Oliver & Shawn Gallina

**Best eyes**



Tiffany Burbridge & Robert Fleishman

**Best smile**



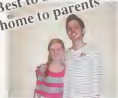
Emilee Trueblood & Zach Muller

**Best hair**



Brooke Brinkley & Mark Rex

**Best to bring home to parents**



Rachel Solar & Jacob Schnoor

**Biggest flirt**



Taylor Steffan & Quincy Moore

**Biggest gossip**



Billie Reitz & Tim Bullard

**Biggest Facebook creep**



Taylor Steffan & Josh Chalfoux

**Bromance/besties**



Kelley Bonewits & Melina Miller  
Cole Felde & Austin Foster

**Class clown**



Kalissa Greenlaw & Erik Augustyn

**Cutest couple**



Shi Fassoth & Robbie Megquier

**Teacher's pet**



Hanna Vrabely & Steven Malone

**Ugliest**



Joselyn Byers & Carlton Villiant

**Moodiest**



Brittany Anderson & Nathan McNeill

**Most likely to be late to Graduation**



Samantha Aguilar & Mark Nellman

**Most athletic**



Kelsey Bonewits & Garrett Litke

**Looks most different from 9th grade**



Emilee Trueblood & Robert Fleishman

**Most likely to ruin your day**



Kathy Villalpando & Ted Fitzgerald

**Most likely to live in G-town forever**



Billie Reitz & Ben Reitz

**Most likely to star in Jersey Shore**



Samantha Aguilar & Tyler Yost

**Most likely to succeed**



Sarah Guistoli & Greg Rothchild

**Most likely to win the Hunger Games**

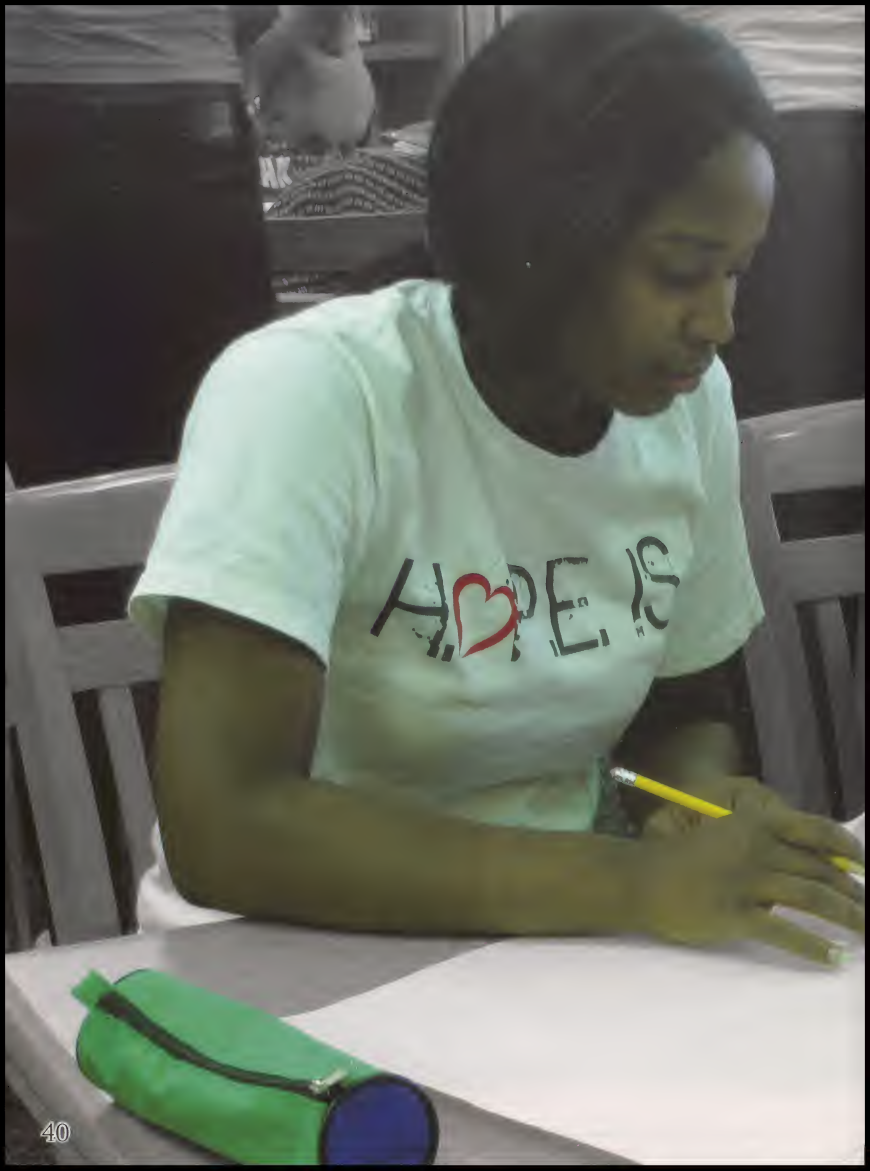


Olivia Gates & Nathan McNeill

**Most likely to be famous**



Alice Duhon & Avery Malerich





*Studying* every night can get really old. There has been so many times that I would rather catch up on "Walking Dead" episodes than figure out how to do an AP Calculus problem. In the end, though, it really all pays off. The scholarships make all of the study parties and late nights worthwhile. After all, I'd rather be staying in preparing for a test than out preparing to throw *my life away*.

-Elizabeth Booker, 12

Griffith High School is a place in which many friendships and memories are made. Every day at GHS, it's easy to witness groups laughing in the hallway at inside jokes and striking up random conversations about Jim Pickett's jokes and Bonnie Manuel's random discussions with classes. However, there is also something more quiet, and arguably more important happening constantly: learning. GHS offers a wide array of classes, designed to satisfy the needs and wants of each student who walks through the entrance every morning. There are an array of art classes for the creatively inclined students, AP classes for those who enjoy challenges, and even computer classes for students who are seeking a profession in the field of technology or programming.

No matter what classes one decides to take, some amount of studying is required. For those who are in many Advanced Placement classes, hours are consumed by studying each day. "I find myself studying or doing homework for up to three hours per day," said senior Kelly Lannin.

Grade level does not always matter when it comes to which classes are the most difficult. "My hardest class was geometry freshman year because I didn't understand a lot of it," said junior Allison Meece.

Many classes, however, are taken for the sole purpose of having extra time to finish homework and having an hour to relax during the school day. For

example, many students become teachers' aides in order to free up some of their time. "I aide for Mrs. [Julie] Wencloff (science), and she keeps me busy, but every chance I have, I finish my homework," said junior Ailey Clark.

Many students also take Independent Research classes to learn more in subjects in which they excel. These IR classes can help students in the long run as well as allow them to follow their personal interests. "Since I'm going to college for magazine writing and editing, being on 'The Edge' as my IR for four years has helped me for my future career," said senior Cali Lemus.

Balancing schoolwork, studying, and finishing projects with a social life and sports, however, can prove to be very difficult. Many freshmen may find themselves rushing to finish the cell project the Thursday night before it is due instead of watching the latest episode of Jersey Shore. While Sunday nights are supposed to be for relaxing and watching Lifetime movies, they are commonly actually used as a last minute time slot to finish any weekend homework. "I mainly wait until the last minute, Sunday night, to do [weekend homework]," said freshman Sarah Dodson.

"I finish my work in school so I have time to focus on soccer after school," said sophomore Brienne Basham.

Many seniors have met the frustration of having to balance school and college applications. College and scholarship applications have proven to be a much bigger feat than many seniors anticipated. "Scholarship applications are really stressful because you have to write essays, and I'm not good at those. It's worse with a ton of homework," said senior Sarah Clark.

"With a lot of AP classes, doing things for college is especially hard. It's hard to find time to even look up scholarships and do applications," said senior Alyssa Niewiadomski.

Whether or not seniors are spending time filling out applications, most are still not willing to put much work into their studies throughout senior year.

With high school comes many responsibilities. However, schoolwork comes first during their four years. After all, how students perform in high school sets the basis for the rest of their lives.

# Bop to the Top!

Ten seniors worked **diligently** since their freshman year to make it all the way to the top of their class.

*"The weekends are a time that I can catch up on all the sleep that I lost during the week."*

*-Stacie Hansen, 12*

Top Ten consists of students who juggle their every day lifestyles along with their academic studies. They devote their time to keep up in their enriched/honored classes. Not only do they dedicate around eight hours a week to doing their homework, all ten have taken part in a time-consuming after school activity.

Senior Elizabeth Kras has bowled all four years in high school and she also took the role as captain for the last two years. "During the season, it's difficult juggle school and bowling. In the end, it was worth it because it was a time I was able to be stress free and have fun," said Kras. Even though she constantly bowls during the week and weekends, she managed to claim a spot in Top Ten. She also has participated in drama, International Club, and National Honor Society.

When Friday comes, everyone in Top Ten enjoys the weekends because they have the opportunity to catch up on their sleep and just take a break from all their enriched classes. This is their time to just unwind and not think about school. On the weekends, senior Brooke Brinkley enjoys spending time with her friends and most of all she enjoys babysitting. "I live for the weekends because it gives me time to do other things besides homework," said Brinkley.

## Words of Wisdom

**1** "Top Ten involves a lot of work that you need to get done in time and waiting until the last minute is not something you want to do."  
-Joel Kepchar, 12

**2** "You can't slack on any of your homework assignments and you have to work your hardest."  
-Megan Tuttle, 12

**3** "Work hard to get the best grades that you can get. Although all of the school work gets stressful, it really pays off in the end."  
-Sarah Guistoli, 12

**4** "Time management is a major factor to working your way up to Top Ten, as well as balancing friends, work, and activities."  
-Stacie Hansen, 12

**5** "Start working hard freshman year and it'll pay off by senior year."  
-Vicki Solivais, 12

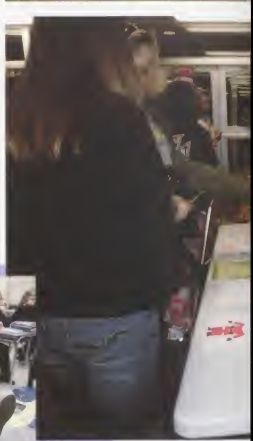
**6** "You can't start caring about Top Ten your senior year. Work hard through all of high school. When you enter senior year, continue to work hard because it will pay off."  
-Amy Russell, 12

**7** "Try your best and work really hard. Don't take it too seriously."  
-Michelle Lesniewski, 12

**8** "Don't revolve your life around being in Top Ten. Just enjoy your life. If it happens, it happens."  
-Ted Fitzgerald, 12

**9** "Pay attention in all of your classes and try to get involved in extra activities so you don't always focus on school."  
-Elizabeth Kras, 12

**10** "No matter how stressful school may get, the key is to just relax and just do the best that you can."  
-Brooke Brinkley, 12



While sitting in chemistry, senior Megan Tuttle kicks back and relaxes during Mrs. KV's lecture. "I like to relax in class because I feel like I learn better," said Tuttle.



Right before chorale enters the stage, senior Brooke Brinkley warms up her vocal chords. "Choir has always been my favorite class because singing relieves stress and it's something I really enjoy," said Brinkley.

# Top Ten 2012

In the middle of her game, senior Amy Russell takes ahold of the ball. "Being a part of a team is quite the experience. Everyone puts all their efforts in preparation and it's nice to watch it all on game day. I am going to miss high school soccer and my teammates," said Russell.

At the NHS's movie night, seniors Stacie Hansen and Michelle Lesniewski help collect the tickets. "We were both amazed at how much people gave to the two families we supported," said Hansen.

**Joel Kepchar** 1

"I'm going to Rose-Hulman Institute and my major is **engineering**."



**Megan Tuttle** 2

"I'm going to IU and my major is **chemistry**."



**Sarah Guistolisi** 3

"I'm going to IU, and my major is **pre-med**."



**Stacie Hansen** 4

"I'm going to IU Bloomington and my major is **pre-med**."



**Vicki Solivais** 5

"I'm going to Ball State or Valpo and my major is **chemistry or pre-dentistry**."



**Amy Russell** 6

"I'm going to IU Bloomington and my major is **psychology**."



**Michelle Lesniewski** 7

"I'm going to Purdue Calumet and my major is **nursing**."



**Ted Fitzgerald** 8

"I'm going to the United States Air Force Academy and my major is **computer engineering**."



**Elizabeth Kras** 9

"I'm going to Grandview Iowa and my major is **biology/chemistry**."



**Brooke Brinkley** 10

"I'm going to Purdue and my major is **nursing**."



Seniors Ted Fitzgerald and Joel Kepchar both lend a helping hand at this year's Coffee Night. "Working with the sound board was very fun and interesting. I'll miss doing this next year," said Kepchar.



# Expect the Unexpected...

When we think the change is over, it has really just begun. Griffith endures a second year with **countless changes** throughout the halls.

Not every school day includes just learning and developing social skills, there are many countless unexpected situations that happen throughout the year.

Sitting in Sarah Cohen's Algebra I class in January, there was a bird walking around in the ceiling during second hour. "It was distracting me from learning. I wanted to let the bird out but Ms. Cohen would not let me," said junior Matt Kitzmiller. Senior Tina Horton was startled by the bird. "I hate birds because I don't like when they flap their wings. It freaks me out," said Horton.

At the same time, there was also a bird distracting students in Marilyn Brunk's pre-calculus class and in Ray Gonzalez's Spanish I class. During their prep hour, the bird flew out of the hole in the ceiling and two custodians came to catch the bird.

"When the bird flew out of the ceiling, it did not scare me because I heard it tapping around in the ceiling. However, what surprised me is that three adults had a hard time catching it and one of them had a net," said Gonzales.

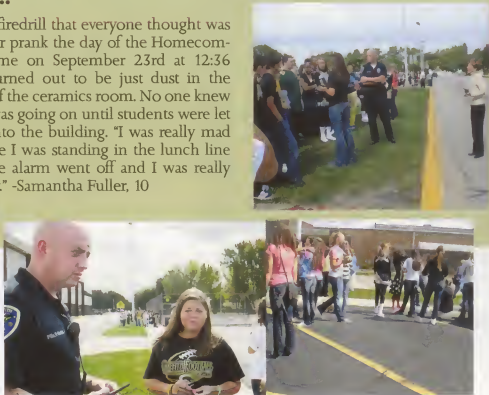


This year during Homecoming, the usual activities day was changed into a pep rally for the Homecoming Court. "I missed seeing all of the events take place and just the overall activities day," said senior Vanessa Blankenship.

## Never knew it was coming....



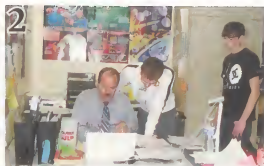
The fire drill that everyone thought was a senior prank the day of the Homecoming game on September 23rd at 12:36 p.m., turned out to be just dust in the vents of the ceramics room. No one knew what was going on until students were let back into the building. "I was really mad because I was standing in the lunch line and the alarm went off and I was really hungry." -Samantha Fuller, 10







On the first day of school, students returned to a new lunch program. Students have mixed feelings about the new lunches. Most of the students, however, do not like them. "I don't like our lunches, we have to wait in line way too long," said Sarah Balboa, 9.



For most students when Travis Walls, science, came to the high school from the middle school, it was completely unexpected. "Even though Mr. Walls is crazy and loud he is still good at what he does," said Andrew Rothchild, 11.



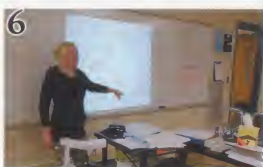
During J.R. Ford's Spanish class semester one final students wore Spongebob party hats to mess around before Christmas break. "The hats weren't planned and we all needed to relax before finals. Mr. Ford thought we would chicken out so we wore them anyway," said Brandon Gale, 11.



Starting in December right before winter break, students were allowed to start wearing pockets on their sweaters. "I spent all my money on Columbias and I didn't get to wear them but now I'm happy that I can," said Courtney Bell, 9.



With a new year came new enriched math books. "No one likes the new books because the book doesn't teach you. All you learn is how to work in a group and to use a graphing calculator. The notes don't correspond to the homework," said Taylor Backe, 11.



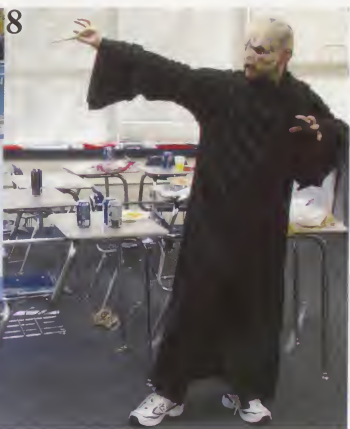
After Christmas break, all of Krystal Bandy's, science, students had a surprise. She left her teaching position to be a forensic scientist in Indianapolis. Laura Mynsberg was the new science teacher. "Ms. Mynsberg is a very cool teacher and I'm happy she is my teacher," said Cesar Rodriguez, 9.



On January twenty-third in the school cafeteria, seniors Garrett Litke and Robert Fleishman take advantage of the new after school snack program before heading to basketball practice. "I think it is a fantastic idea to have the program," said Litke.

While eating during the Newspapers Christmas party, an unexpected brawl occurred. "It was unexpected to fight Mr. Smock because he was the one that bought the light saber for me for Secret Santa.

Even though he didn't have a light saber, he decided to battle me with his Voldemort stick," said junior Matthew Seiluns.



"It's easier to find stuff with just pockets then it is to find stuff with no hoods or pockets." -Irene Gutierrez, 11

# Toeing the Line

Students at Griffith High School are constantly pushing the rules to their boundaries and frustrating the staff.

"In high school, rules are made to be broken. If it's a rule, it's just more tempting to break it at school."  
-Brittany Kestley, 9

In every school, there are always rules that drive the students absolutely crazy. One of those rules is not being allowed to wear hoods. Even though the rule that students were not allowed to wear pockets

was revoked, students are still not allowed to wear hoods or hoodies.

"We should be able to wear hoods because it's really cold and most sweaters without hoods are ugly," said sophomore Rebecca Perez.

"I'm thrilled we get to wear pockets again. I even went out and bought a new Northface," said junior Chris Benko.

## 5 rules that are made to be broken

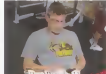
1 texting in class



3 wearing hoods



5 sitting on the desks



4 eating and drinking



What school rule would you get rid of?

### No Holes

"I would get rid of not being able to wear holes in our jeans because we get to wear shorts, so we should be able to have holes in our jeans."  
-Mia DalSanto, 11

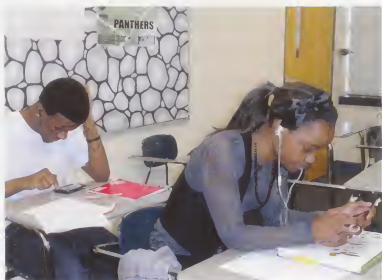
### 3 Finger Rule

"I would get rid of the three finger rule because most shirts that aren't three fingers aren't even low."  
-Jody Cunningham, 10



While catching up on some sleep in Dan Santori's statistics class, senior Troy Yarnelle gets an embarrassing mark from his notebook, "I sleep in all of my class, all of the time. I'm just always tired," said Yarnelle.

Some teachers allow electronics while others do not. Seniors Brianna Nelson and Andre Windmon take advantage and take out their iPods. "I always listen to my favorite song, Countdown, by Beyonce during class," said Nelson.



While eating a McDonalds parfait, senior Brittni McEmore avoids paying attention. "I always eat in class because it's really easy to sneak snacks in your purse," said McEmore.

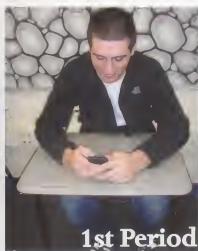
"Well, I had never seen a leotard before so I decided to wear it because I wanted to see how it felt," said senior David Stokes. Stokes was wearing senior Jenny Lanfear's leotard that she had in her bag for cheerleading practice after school.

During a fire drill, senior Avery Malerich stands next to his "look-a-like," Justin Schroeder, English. "When I looked at Mr. Schroeder, I thought that I resembled him so I announced it to everyone outside," said Malerich.

*"Licking the sheep brain was like licking rubber."*  
- Sarah Velasquez, 10



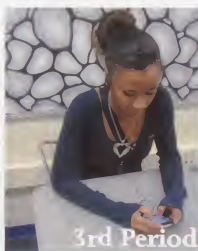
## A day in the life of a desk in Griffith High School



**1st Period**



**2nd Period**



**3rd Period**



**4th Period**

"I couldn't live without texting. If I didn't have my phone during first hour, I would have nothing to do and be bored. I'm constantly texting the ladies."  
-Jordan Mull, 10

"I always drink in my second hour. I get really thirsty and I'd rather be drinking something than learning things I'll never need."  
-Miriah Berrios, 10

"I'm never without my music. I was listening to Drake because the class is really easy and boring. There's really no point in paying attention when I understand it right away."  
-Dominique Anderson, 10

"By fourth period, I'm ready to crash. Even if I wasn't sleeping, I wouldn't be paying attention. And somehow the desks are more comfortable in fourth hour."  
-Antonio Suarez, 9

**The Texter**

**The Drinker**

**The Listener**

**The Sleeper**

"The easiest rules to break are dress code, no hoods, and no texting because breaking those rules are easy." -Miriah Berrios, 10



# Taking A Step Beyond

Finding the **extra time** to fit in electives, aide hours, and out of class activities.

For most high school students, we are always trying to find that much needed extra minute of time to get relief from the chaos of every day problems such as homework, relationships, and all of the other unnecessary drama. For most students, there is no time during our busy schedules to have any free time available. For some students, they find their extra time during their aide hour here at school.

"My aide hour is the one time of the day where I know I don't have to worry about the troubles of studying, taking tests, or doing homework," said senior Clarissa Hardy. On the other hand, for many students they think the complete opposite about aide hours. Starting this school year, you do not receive a credit for having an aide hour. In the eyes of most students, being an aide for someone is seen as pointless without receiving a credit. "If I'm going to be stuck in school for eight hours, I should at least receive a credit for it; even if that means I am just helping out another teacher," said senior Courtney Hargis.

Another elective that some students find as a somewhat relaxing hour is an I.R. period. The word I.R. stands for independent research,

which allows the student to look more in depth during the class period and really understand the purpose behind the whole class. At the end of the semester, each student has to turn in a project about their findings during the semester. The class is almost identical to an aide hour, except that at the end of each semester each student has to turn in a final project about their learnings.

One student that is currently taking an I.R. this semester is Vicki Soliva. She is an I.R. for Lynn Rhodes' child development class.

"My favorite part about having an I.R. period is that the class allows me to do everything on my own schedule. By taking this class, it gives me more time to go

really into detail with the subjects that I find more interesting," said Soliva.

Students should not be punished for taking a class or having a period that they actually are interested in. Even though I.R. and aide hours are classes that are entertaining alternatives to sitting in an unnecessary class, credits should still be awarded to students who actually take the time to devote hours of research and put extra work into a project.

"I think that students should receive credits for being an aide because you put in just as much work as any other class."

-Ann Fitch, 11



Would you rather **aide** or have an **elective**?

"I like aiding better, because you don't have to worry about taking tests and studying," said Lindsey Osborn, 11

"If you ever want to be a teacher, you have to learn how to aide and teach a class but I feel as if electives are more important," said Nikki Rapka, 12



Aides (90%)



Electives (10%)



Stacking up books, senior Nick Stassin helps out Travis Walls, science, during his aide hour. "Being an aide allows me to have that extra time to finish my homework when I know I won't have time to finish it later," said Stassin





"I enjoy working on *The Edge* during my I.R. period because I have more time to use my creativity to make the pages better," said senior Elizabeth Kras. *The Edge* has a total of four issues that each student has to complete by the end of each quarter.

In Psychology, students perform a reflex lab to see how their eye, knee, and sight reflexes work. "It wasn't very enjoyable having that toy being puffed into your eye," said senior Clara Taylor.



One of the benefits of being an I.R. is that you can work at your own pace on your own time. "Being an I.R. allows me to explore different art forms that are more interesting to me. Throwing is my favorite because it's something that I really enjoy doing," said senior Catena Root.



### *What elective(s) are you taking and why?*

"I am taking photography because it's what I plan on doing in college."  
-Jessica Zubik, 12

"I like choir the best because we take really cool trips and I like the different kinds of music that we learn."  
-Melissa Vieyra, 10

"Food class is my favorite because I get hungry during the day, so the class gives me some time to eat."  
-Branna Jones, 12

The purpose behind Child Development class is to have students get the hands-on experience of having a child. "Babies are a wonder of life. But in a way, they suck," said junior Kristy Hosein.

# Learning Times Two

The **advantages** of taking dual credit classes include earning credit while learning the rigors of college.

"I already have an account for PNC so I feel like I am part of the school."

-Sierra Gutierrez, 11

Dual credit classes are not for just anyone. The course availability requirements for admission are ranking in the upper one-third of the class, having an accumulative grade point average of 3.0 or greater, and an SAT score of at least a 460 in mathematics, critical reading, and writing, or a 46 on the PSAT in all three categories. "Taking dual credit classes in high school will benefit the students when it comes to money since it's only \$25 a credit hour in high school and \$100 a credit hour in college," said Christine Chidichimo, math.

The amount of dual credit classes has doubled from 7 classes to 14 classes in the past year. Students have more of an opportunity to get in a credit hour that can benefit them in the long run. "I took dual credit classes because I wanted to get some of my college credits out of the way," said senior Amanda Bakko.

There are many colleges in Indiana that accept these credits such as Purdue North Central, Ivy Technical Institute, Purdue Calumet, and Indiana University Northwest. Students can also take online classes with the college credits earned in highschool. "Homework assignments are more challenging and the class goes at a faster pace," said senior Steven Malone.

## What are you taking the credit for..

*AP or Dual Credit?*



"I took calculus and Spanish for dual credit so I can have extra credit for college and possibly graduate early!"  
-Ashley Becino, 12



"Working hard for college credits puts a lot more pressure on it, but you get a good grade so it's a little bit of a challenge."  
-Emily Kuznetsov, 11

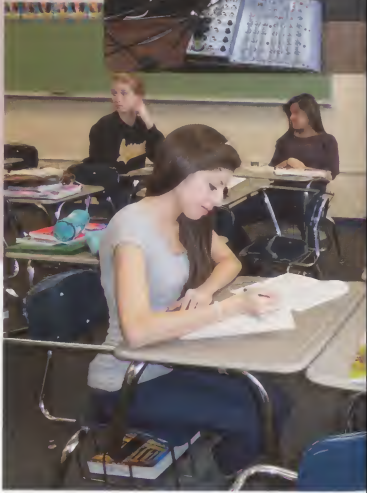
"I took AP English and calculus because it's challenging and I need it for my major. Also, Kent, 12."



"I took AP U.S. History because AP classes are more prepared for college."  
-Joan Adams, 11



While doing a Skull Characteristic Lab in AP Biology, juniors Stephanie Younker and Zack Grin examine a skull. "It was interesting to know what teeth in a skull look like," said Grin.



Singing "Angels" in choir, senior Brooke Brinkley demonstrates the song so they can edit parts in the program, Garageband. "Choir is my favorite class and Mr. Covarrubias is my favorite teacher," said Brinkley.



During AP English, seniors Rachel Garastik and Stacie Hansen acted out a skit for *Macbeth*. Senior Robbie Szabo played a girl. "Robbie Szabo looked adorable in a dress," said Hansen.

With an empty paper towel roll, juniors Cindy McInerney and Emma Blackard participate in the activity to learn about inverse graphs. "Pre-cal was challenging at first and getting used to the book was difficult," said Blackard.



J.R. Ford, foreign language, tells junior Jordan Gonzalez to go up to the board and write the Spanish command with a pronoun, digamelo during Spanish III. "Spanish keeps getting more challenging but I manage to keep a good grade," said Gonzalez.

In the middle of AP U.S. history, Luann Pramuk had her students write an essay from the slavery packet. "I am bad at history, but I took it anyway because it is an AP class," said junior Jeanette Salazar.

### *What does it take to be an AP student?*

"You have to manage your time so you can get all of your work done." -Steven Marquez, 11

"It takes energy and time to be an AP student." -Alice Duhon, 12

"To be an AP student, it takes being responsible and doing your homework before the day it's due." -Shi Fassoth, 12

# Changing it Up

Instead of sitting in a desk from class to class, students **switch it up** by learning through more interesting activities

*"I learned more with Smock's alternative teaching style than learning from a book."*

*-Faith Adams, 9*

While substituting for English teacher Kristina Collard while she was on maternity leave, Joshua Smock always had a surprise for his classes. On his first day of substituting, Smock had his classes take a personality quiz, which made the students draw different pictures that represented different things in their lives. "The personality quiz was really interesting and it actually summed up my character. And he let us put in unicorns," said freshman Terra Martin. Smock had different methods of teaching that attracted the students' attention. From having the students take off their shoes during the poetry unit to making the journalism students interrogate each other to answer the six questions for interviews and articles. "I'm

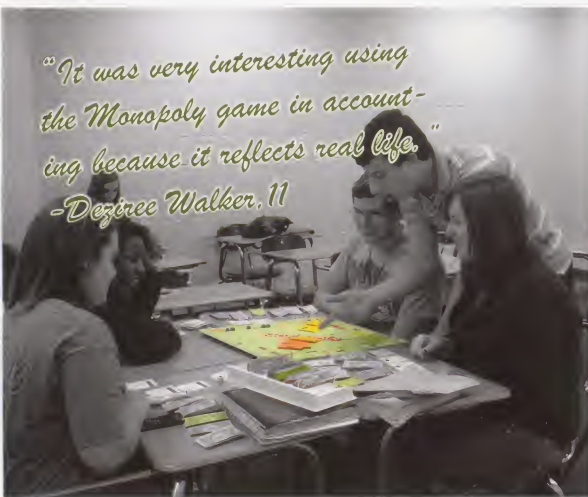
a creatively inclined person and I wait for ideas to come to me that would keep students on their toes. I wanted to not do the same routine because when you follow the same routine every day it grows stale, and the students are not going to listen as much," said Smock. Not only was Smock's way of teaching unique, so was the classroom. Everyday the classroom was set up in a different way. There were rows, groups, and occasionally he would take out all the desks. "When the desk changed every other week it made the room more exciting. My favorite is when the desks were set up like a sunshine," said freshman Kentrell Darnell Allen.

During the poetry unit in English, Smock had the students blindfolded, so they can use their other senses to understand poetry. "I learned more being blindfolded because you feel what is written rather than just reading it," said senior Eric Navarro. The students even had to walk around the school and listen to poetry in different environments.

Changing some of the aspects of learning helps the students focus more on the material. Sometimes it's more intriguing to add exciting learning activities or change up the same routine that is involved in the everyday classroom.

*"It was very interesting using the Monopoly game in accounting because it reflects real life."*

*-Deziree Walker, 11*



On Friday the 13th in Rebecca Koonce's earth and space science class, the students took graham crackers and demonstrated plate tectonics. "It was a good example for me because I could eat the end result," said freshman Antonio Mohoi.



Cutting a piece of tube, senior Robert Fleishman was working on building a house at the Career Center. "I like being at the Career Center because I can do what I like to do in life instead of sitting in school," said Fleishman.

Measuring the difference of the tube length and view, junior Kim Dye was introduced to the rational function chapter in pre-cal enriched. "This type of lesson helps us interact with each other with not just a pencil and paper," said Dye.



In Biology II, juniors Ali Acevedo, Jesus Aldape, Rosie Quintanilla, and senior Billie Reitz were naming the parts of the body. "Having a 3D example of learning is better than just learning from the book," said Aldape.

Making a resume, in the entrepreneur class at the Career Center, junior Dalzja Hill likes doing business related activities. "The class is very exciting, and it opens the mind to be more creative," said Hill.



*What is your favorite alternative way of learning?*

**"PowerPoints"** because it is easier to visualize." -Cole Wimmer, 10

**"Having groups"** in Algebra I because I learn more. -Jonathan Adams, 9

**"Watching videos"** because it helps me understand what I'm learning." -Karina Silva, 11

At the Career Center, junior Kelsie Lunsford is practicing talking on the radio. The Career Center is working on running a station. "Broadcasting is very unique and not a lot of people can say they do what I do," said Lunsford.



"I like alternative learning because it expands the understanding of the lesson." -Cristina Aldape, 12

# Mandatory classes

Every Griffith student is required to take **core classes** to be able to graduate from high school

"I am very focused on my students and supportive of the staff," said Ray Gonzalez, Spanish.

With a new year comes new teachers with different teaching styles. One of the new teachers this year is Ray Gonzalez who is the new Spanish teacher that replaced Kelli Bridges. "I am very focused on my students and supportive of the staff," said Gonzalez. He uses his students as a teaching method by hitting all types of learning styles, reading, listening and speaking.

Mr. Gonzalez is a graduate of Morton High School and a graduate of Wabash College. "I enjoy being a Griffith Panther," said Gonzalez.

Gonzalez also enjoys being in a larger school and the many opportunities that come along with it. He hopes to be a Griffith Panther for a long time.

Most kids just blow off studying to slack off, but sophomore Paige Obermeyer pushes her academic reputation to the limit. "No matter how much you think you know, just study for reviews so you know it very well," said Obermeyer.

Obermeyer studies an hour a day starting three days before the test. She studies by reading the book and then she has her parents or friends take it away and ask her questions about what she has read. Studying really helps your grade when it is down. "No matter how much you dislike a class or studying you should still study so you do not fail," said Obermeyer.

"No matter how much you think you know, just study for review so you know it very well," said Paige Obermeyer, 10

*How much time do you spend on your homework?*

"I spend about two hours on my homework."

-Lisa Dabney, 9

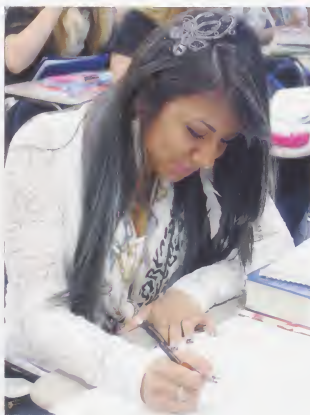
"I spend almost three hours on my homework before I go to practice."

-Matthew Potacki, 9

"I spend an hour and a half on my homework."

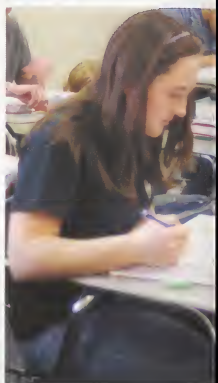
-Kortland Bryant, 11

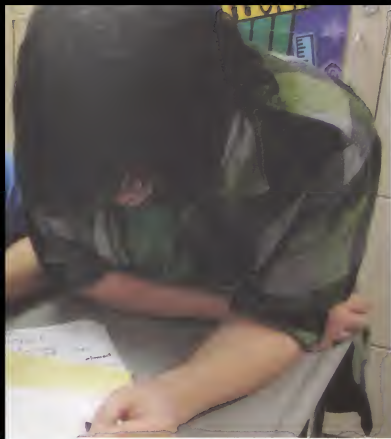
While working on vocabulary, junior Mercedes Hermosillo tries not to laugh at her classmates in Sheila Vaclavik's English class. "I like doing vocab. It helps expand my vocabulary," said Hermosillo.



While working on a worksheet in Scott MacFarland's accounting class, junior Jackie Johns tries to maintain her A in the class. "Mr. Mac knows how to break stuff down when you don't understand something," said Johns.

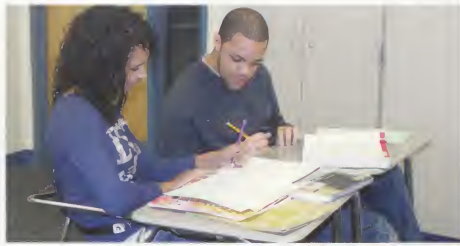
As junior Stephanie Younker makes a poster for a presentation in Sheila Vaclavik's English class, she thinks of drawing on the person next to her. "Mrs. Vaclavik's class consists of taking good notes and fun projects," said Younker.





After returning from three days of absences, sophomore Kathryn Baum gets help from sophomore Joshua Kime on how to name polyatomic ions in Emily O'Brien's chemistry class. "Chem A is a difficult class but once you understand it, it just clicks," said Baum.

Sitting in Keith Mitchell's math class, sophomores Alana Vega and Jared Lowe laugh at a drawing making fun of the class. "Mr. Mitchell's class can be very interesting at times," said Vega.



To Pre-Calculus or not to Pre-Calculus? *That is the question!*

Pre-calculus

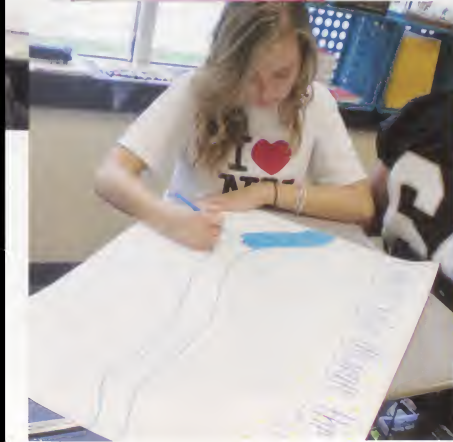


"I am in pre-cal because it's an honors class," said Andrew Fowler, 11

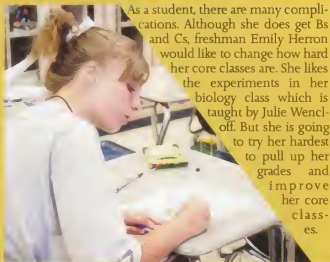
Not To Pre-calculus



"I dropped pre-cal because it's stupid and the books don't teach you anything," said Ally Kranjak, 10



## Core Classes *Benefit* Students



As a student, there are many complications. Although she does get Bs and Cs, freshman Emily Herron would like to change how hard her core classes are. She likes the experiments in her biology class which is taught by Julie Wencloff. But she is going to try her hardest to pull up her grades and improve her core classes.



# Lab Learning

Science and psychology students participate in labs for a **different** kind of learning experience.

*"High school labs are a lot more complicated than they were in middle school."*

*-Sergio Gonzalez, 10*

When given the option to taste a newly dissected sheep brain after a psychology class finishes one of their many labs, almost every student at Griffith High School would pass at the chance. But if you ask senior Robbie Megquier if he would like a bite, you might be surprised by his answer.

"The brain tasted gross and felt really weird. It was just one of those spur of the moment things," said Megquier, 12.

A lot of classes do not participate in such exciting labs as psychology does. More of the basic science classes, such as Chem B and Earth Space Science, take part in more standard labs, with the occasional computer lab.

"Chem B labs are usually pretty easy. If you pay attention during the pre-lab, the lab itself flies by during the period if you follow all the directions. It's really hard not to get a good grade," said sophomore Jasmine Alvarez.

Teachers take labs very seriously because of all the chemicals and hazards. "I always make sure that my students are behaving during labs because someone could get seriously hurt," said Rebecca Koonce, science.

Trusting senior Robbie Szabo to guide her, senior Tori Louviere participates in a psychology sight lab. "My group did surprisingly well. Robbie was a good guide and nobody ran into anything," said Louviere.

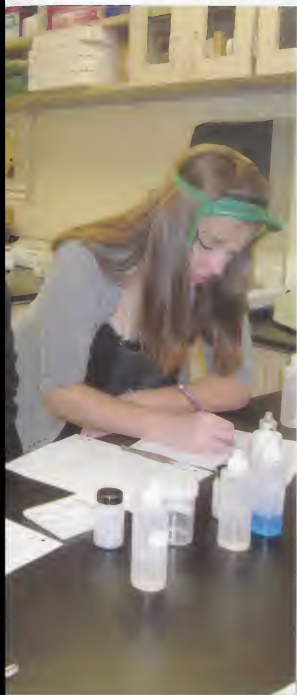
Taking notes on their lab, juniors Emma Blackard and Angel Nunez launch their rocket. "After he [Angel] launched it, I jumped out of the way because I thought it was going to hit me!" said Blackard.



Writing down results from the Metal Reaction lab, sophomores Sarah Koliboski and Madi Kent observe the reactions of magnesium. "Chem A labs are pretty exciting, especially with a good partner," said Kent.

Working on the solutions lab, sophomores Marquise Henry and Jessica Bahena-Alvarez measure chemicals. "Chem A has probably been my favorite science class because I'm interested in learning about chemistry," said Henry.





"I love doing labs because I really like experimenting and getting results," said senior Emily Witvoet. Witvoet and partner, junior Melissa Smith, try to finish their Chem II acid/base lab before class ends.



"Using the microscope helped me understand more about biology," said freshman Danielle Falkner. Falkner and partner sophomore Cecily Jones worked together on all their biology labs first semester.



Focusing on their Chem II lab, senior Marris Mihalick and junior Patrick Weber work on the titration lab. "Chem II labs are always a lot of work, but they're usually fun and I learn a lot," said Mihalick.

## Pre-lab in Process

### Teacher vs Student!



"Teachers have to do way more to prepare for labs because they have to make sure everything is safe for the kids."  
-Julie Wencloff, science.

VS

"Students have to prepare more for labs because they have to take tons of notes for the prelab."  
-Abigail Muffett, 11



For the *E. coli* lab in A.P. Biology, students had to use alcohol, distilled water, and dye to complete their lab and get their results.

## favorite labs at GHS

### worms

"Any lab with [sophomore] Brianne Basham was fun, but dissecting the worm was my favorite."  
-Tori Tralcoff, 9

### rockets

"I liked the (physics) rocket lab because we got to go outside to shoot them."  
-Sammi Adams, 11

### flames

"My favorite Chem A lab was the flame test because of all the colors from the reactions."  
-Matt Csonka, 10

*"We get involved in as many clubs as possible. A lot of times, I've found that I've bitten off more than I can chew. I overwhelm myself with activities and homework. Even though I find myself near to a mental breakdown, it is all worth it because I've met so many amazing people and I've been able to say that I've done things that I don't think I'll ever have the chance to do again. I joined clubs to meet new people and I love getting to have a voice."*

*-Kelsey Bonewits, 12*

Clubs were a great way to meet new people and to contribute to GHS. Seniors through freshmen joined together in order to make the school a better place. Students had the opportunity to compete in academic competitions, take a trip to Orlando and Miami, sleep in the school over night, or throw an awesome dance that would be talked about for years to come. Students joined clubs for numerous reasons. Some joined because they look good on college applications and others joined because they wanted to have a voice in the decisions that go on in the school. Whether joining for field trips or trying to make the school better, clubs will always be an entertaining alternative to sitting at home.

A few of the more popular clubs at GHS were booster club, FCCA, student council, choir, National Honor Society, and the four different class councils. This year, booster club had a new sponsor. Brenda Bonewits decided to step up to the challenge when she heard that they needed fresh ideas. One change that she implemented immediately was for the fall sports. Instead of decorating the student's individual lockers, members of booster club decided to make huge banners with each athlete's name on them. Another change to booster club was that the sign-ups were at lunch rather than registration so the amount of members was lower. Another club with a new sponsor was National Honor Society. Stephanie

Villarreal, English, decided to take over the club when Sheila Vaclavik, English, had to step down due to the time commitment. One new change that Villarreal put into action was the National Honor Society dance-a-thon. Students came together and danced in order to raise money for Riley's Children Hospital.

In choir, Eddie Covarrubias, music, decided to take his Chorale seniors on a trip to both Orlando, Florida and Miami, Florida. The students went to Universal Studios, on a Duck Boat Tour, and visited beaches all over Miami. The students missed the Friday before spring break and returned on the first Sunday of spring break.

In sophomore class council, members spent hours working diligently on their Homecoming float. They made paper flowers and glued them together into the shape of a football and "The Big Apple." All of their hard work paid off when they won the Homecoming float contest.

The drama department had a bit of a rough patch this past year. Aside from losing Lisa Megquire, English, as director, the students were not allowed to participate in Drama Regionals. Regionals was not possible because there was not enough time for the GHS administration to find a new sponsor. But, seniors Avery Malerich and Alice Duhon were selected the previous year to be the student directors in the fall. Malerich decided to use a play he had been writing for three years which he titled, "Cannibalistic Endearment," and Duhon selected the play, "Love (Awkwardly)," to be performed during the annual Drama Night in November. Another change for drama was that Drama Night was only allowed to be one night on Saturday, November 12, with two performances instead of one performance on both Friday and Saturday.

Whether decorating the school for Homecoming or taking a plane ride to Florida, clubs will always be an exciting way to show how students voice their opinions. The decisions that the classes made today will forever have an influence on the generations to come. Clubs are an awesome way to meet new people, try something new and make everlasting memories.





# NHS Toy Drive

## Operation: Christmas Morning

To be inducted into the National Honor Society is one of the biggest accomplishments of many high school students. Once inducted, many responsibilities arise, including making all of the meetings and helping with any events.

Every year during the Christmas holiday season, the Griffith National Honor Society hosts an event to raise funds for the needy. The past two years, the NHS members have collected items for a family that was unable to have Christmas in the past. To help raise money for the toy drive, the Honor Society hosted a movie night. Shown in the auditorium, the movie *Polar Express* was played and the proceeds went directly to the funds for the two families. "Last year we were only able to provide one family with a Christmas, so it was great to be able to do two this year," said senior Rachel Garastik.

The honor society has been successful in other events also. This year the honor society conducted a food drive through senior Hanna Vrabely's grandparent's church, Saint Vincent DePaul. "My grandparents run the food drive through their church and this year they were extremely low on goods.

My grandma said that the honor society really helped them," said Vrabely. The food drive takes place twice every year. GHS National Honor Society participated in November, bringing

in dozens of canned goods.

This year the honor society had many new inductees; all of whom were able to contribute throughout the year. The National Honor Society offers a fulfilling way for the students to get involved with community service and with the school.

*"Giving back to people who can't afford to have something makes me feel great about NHS" said senior Greg Rothchild.*



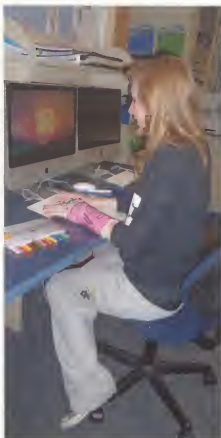
Juniors Blaire Gearhart and Jackie Johns wrap presents in pajamas the night of the NHS toy drive and movie showing of *Polar Express*. "I was so touched by everyone's generosity. So many people brought in toys and money for the two families we provided a Christmas for," said Johns, "the children and the family will be so grateful."

Marilyn Brunk's fourth hour won the annual Student Council food drive because they brought in the most canned goods and various other items. "We stocked up on soap because it was worth the most points. A lot of families will benefit from all of the products we brought in," said junior Julie Duvnjak.





## On a Smaller Scale



In order to get onto yearbook staff, you must take journalism and then you must complete an application to get on staff. Freshman Kaitlynn Mang was very excited when she learned she got onto Reflector. "I didn't want to be on yearbook at first, but Mr. Smock convinced me. I'm really glad that I did it," said Mang.

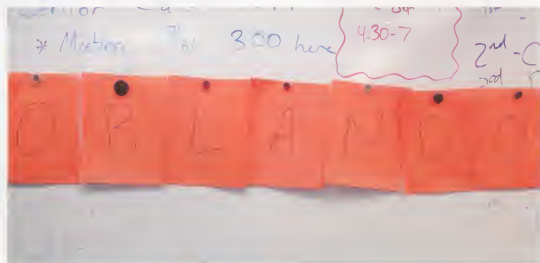
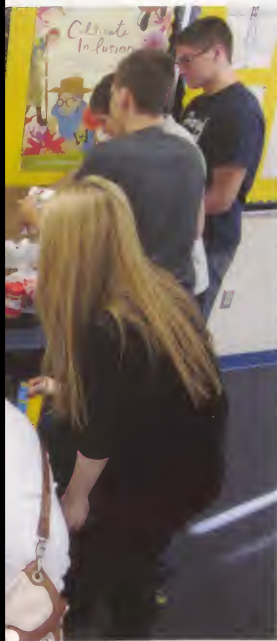


"We took part in DECA District in order to go to state. Once you have competed and won at state, you are able to compete at the international level."

-Ross Myers, 11

"I was more than happy to help Mrs. Dumezich design the wheelchair basketball game shirt for National Disabilities Awareness Month because I enjoy volunteering my time."

-Hanna Vrabely, 12



In order to be in Chorale, you have to try out and every year the members in Chorale have the opportunity of going on a class trip. Students in Chorale got to go on the costly trip to Orlando and Miami this year. "Fundraising for our trip to Florida included having the pancake breakfast along with selling cookie dough and ads," said senior Alysia Metsch.

Only three students write, design, and print *The Edge*, with a staff of three. "We get *The Edge* out every quarter, but I wish there were more people on staff so each issue was easier to complete," said sophomore Abigail Kik.

# Being generous in helping the community!

For the first time in Drama history, the actors and actresses had to sell an ad. They were raising money to rent four plants for the musical *Little Shop of Horrors*. "The giant plant cost two thousand dollars and selling the ads was a quick way to raise money. It was difficult selling the ads because all the places I went to, someone already went there. But in the end, I was able to sell one. The ads were presented in the playbill the night of the play," said freshman Amber Holley. For fifty dollars, a business could buy a business card size ad or for one hundred dollars a full-page ad.

Everyone used a lot of time and energy trying to sell ads. "I was very persistent when selling my ad. I had

to keep going back to the business to talk to the manager and the person in a higher power of the manager to convince them to buy an ad," said senior Amelia Morales. There were

*"When selling an ad, be friendly. If you are mean to the manager, they're less likely to give you money."  
-Alice Dukon, 12*

21 ads sold and drama raised 1,400 dollars. Unfortunately, that was not enough money to rent the plants from a prop company known as Musical Tech Institute, but the director of the musical, Eddie Covarrubias, took a risk and rented the plants anyway. "I used the money from the ads and the ticket sales from last year to rent the

plants. I'm hoping that the ticket sales from this year will make up for the cost of the props needed for the play and help start the musical for next year," said Covarrubias.

## Lending a helping hand

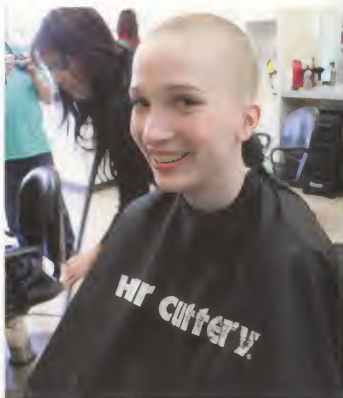


"I donate my blood because it helps people, makes me feel good inside, and I get delicious food."  
-Chance's Walker, 12



"I volunteer at an animal shelter whenever I can because it hurts to see the animals in danger."  
-Lisa Calvillo, 10

"Volunteering is a fantastic way to help the community and it makes me feel good about myself."  
-Sean Downs, 11



While working at Hearts in Motion on 45th Street, senior Shanaizha Scheeringa was organizing the clothes to be sent down to Guatemala. "My mom owns the business and I work there, but when I'm not working, I volunteer on the projects that go on here. We send clothes down to Guatemala, Honduras, Ecuador, and Panama. Doing so little here goes along way down there," said Scheeringa.

For St. Baldricks, junior Mia Dal Santo shaved her head on March 17. Dal Santo went to the Hair Cuttery in Highland Grove and raised 1,500 dollars. "Society places a lot of importance on looks. When kids go through chemotherapy, they don't get to decide how it will effect them. I shaved my head so they wouldn't feel as left out," said Dal Santo.



Student Council had a food drive during November for the families in need. Senior Megan Tuttle was bringing the donated items from another classroom to student council sponsor Jenna Berzy. "I enjoy helping people that are less fortunate than I am," said Tuttle.

This year the Heartland Blood Center sponsored two blood drives. One on February 2, and one on April 13. Many students donated blood including junior Alyssa Gebo. "I donated blood because it saved my cousin's life, so I donate whenever I get a chance," said Gebo.



On the Belize trip for advanced science classes, junior Destiny Barajas went zip lining through the jungle. "Before I zip lined, I was nervous because I am afraid of heights but once I did it, I wanted to do it again," said Barajas.

In the Main Gym on March 30th, junior Jodi Morales took part in the wheel chair basketball game. The school raised 2,000 dollars for the Rollin' Hoosiers wheelchair basketball team. "I play because it keeps me in shape and it's a fantastic way to socialize," said Morales.



# Born to Lead the Pack

## GHS leaders are taking a stand

At Griffith High School, there are many different leaders that walk throughout the halls. A leader is a person who steps up to the plate and takes the role of guiding a group or an organization. The few people that do decide to take on this role have learned to step away from the group and stop being a follower. The leaders at our school make their stand as teachers, sports leaders, peer leaders, and club leaders.

Last year, Stephanie Villarreal, English, took on the role as a new sponsor of National Honor Society. Senior Rachel Garastik also had a new spot in National Honor Society as the the new 2011-2012 President. "Being President of National Honor Society is surreal and I didn't realize how in depth it would be, but Ms. Villarreal is really good with working together and coming up with new ideas for the group. We are

bringing fresh ideas to the table," said Garastik.

Even in sports, students continue to pursue roles as leaders, primarily as seniors, and occasionally juniors.

During the wrestling season, seniors Zach Muller, Nick Stassin, and

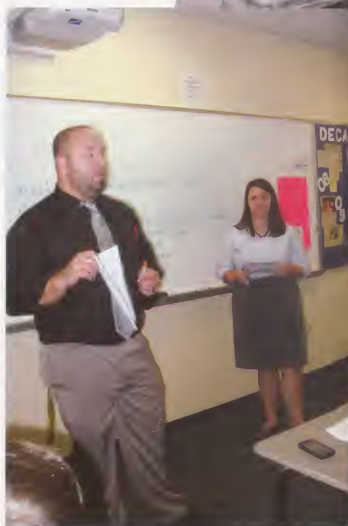
Tyler Yost exercised their leadership by becoming captains of the team. "As co-captain, I have to lead stretches and help younger

wrestlers learn moves and keep them in line," said Muller. In order to be a leader on a sports team, a lot of experience is required. Over the years, one must learn how to help run a practice, maintain a high level of motivation, and work hard for the team in order to ultimately be a leader.

*"Being president is surreal."  
-Rachel Garastik, 12*



S.A.D.D. is a program at Griffith High School that is sponsored and ran by Officer Pete Ghrist. "In S.A.D.D., you need to be organized and be able to not pile up too much work for the members," said Ghrist.





During an FCCLA meeting senior Amber Atkins writes down the dates choosen for field trips. "To be the president of FCCLA, you have to manage time and be able to come up with good ideas," said Atkins.



## What does it take to be *a leader?*

*I am happy to be the sponsor. The NHS members are great students."*  
*Stephanie Villanreal,*  
*English*



"A lot of hard work, dedication, responsibility, and desire is what it takes to become a real leader."  
-Abbey Little, 11



"To be a leader, you have to take charge and know what you're talking about in every situation." Tessa Trueblood, 10

"To be a leader you have to be straight forward with everyone and can't be afraid to take chances." Jesus Adalpe, 11



Conducting a meeting on October 26, Scott MacFarland, business, discusses plans for dues. "You have to be awesome to be a leader of DECA and to take part in it," said MacFarland.

Reading a Bible verse aloud, senior Chloe Oliver leads the student-run Bible study, Youth Alive. The students discuss different scriptures taught throughout the Bible and many parables. "I get to bring other students together to share their faith and learn about God. We all became really close friends," said Oliver.



To be a leader, you can't be afraid to take a stand."  
-Marisa Rios, 11

# Making Changes

## GHS band faces an experimental year

This year, band has gone through various changes, one of which being the new band director, Debbie Korak, who came to the high school from the grade schools. The number of band members has decreased from 20 or more members to only 17 students this year. Due to the lower numbers, the band as a whole was unable to compete in competitions, but individual members were able to compete in solo performances or group ensembles for ISSMA at Crown Point.

Additionally, due to low numbers, the marching band called up an eighth grader, Scott Nolan, to march. Korak hopes to add flags next year to increase the size of the group.

Pep band also has had some middle school students participating to increase their size. Middle school students Josh Cavazos and Scott Nolan had the opportunity to be a part of the high school pep band.

During this year band was able to travel to Wadsworth, Beriger, and Ready to show the fifth and sixth graders their instruments to promote joining band in high school. The band was also able to go to the Valparaiso University Small Band Festival, which allowed four bands to come together and play in a larger group. Griffith High School was able to rehearse with Valparaiso's band and perform with them in front of a live audience.

Standing in their line formation and ready to play, the Griffith Marching Black and Gold prepares to impress the audience. "Marching band is a great experience and I suggest that others should join," said freshman Celeste Villarruel.

*"Once a member always a member!"  
- Carlos Gonzalez, 10*



## Playing the Right Notes



"Marching band is a lot of fun, but takes a lot of dedication," said freshman Cara Smith. The Griffith marching band members generally practice for two months for eight to ten hours a week.



After warming up, buzzing the mouth piece, and playing some scales, the pep band plays at the Griffith home basketball game. "If I could, I would do pep band year round," said freshman Rebecca Schnoor.



Warming up, sophomore Carlos Gonzalez, along with the rest of the band, practices her concert music. "Band is very inspiring. I suggest that anyone who plays an instrument should join," said Gonzalez.

"If you're not dedicated enough and think [band] is easy, you're wrong! It's very hard, and you have to work a lot in order to be in band," said freshman Cara Smith. Smith plays the flute in the Griffith High School marching band.



During a Griffith basketball game, the pep band plays some popular pop and rock songs to get the crowd excited. "Band kids are epic. I love playing in the band," said freshman Kayla LaBuda.

At practice, senior Nick Brummet plays the Griffith fight song on his wood blocks. "Band is a really good experience. Everyone in band is like a family," said Brummet.

# In It To Win It

## Clubs Compete For First Place

Throughout every student's journey through high school, they discover their interests and practice them by participating in a club. Some clubs, just like sports, participate in competitions. Clubs that compete are DECA, Pantherettes, the Superbowls, Bowling Club, and Science Olympiad. Other than clubs and sports, one particular class at Area Career Center, Multimedia Broadcasting, competes as well.

The Multimedia Broadcasting classes, both A.M. and P.M., went to Indianapolis, Indiana to compete in the Indiana Broadcasting Association Contest located at Indianapolis University. The classes created a video in hopes of entering and ultimately winning the competition. However, the long-awaited trip took a turn for the worse.

While on their way to the Indiana Broadcasting Association Contest, the Multimedia Broadcasting classes' bus nearly flipped over after hitting an incline. "The whole day was a great bonding experience," said senior Sydney Segovia.

On April, 17 2012, senior Kelly Lannin bonds with her teammates on History Superbowl, senior Rachel Garastik and junior Jackie Johns. "Sitting in the bleachers was boring, so it was exciting to get to compete on the floor," said Lannin.

During the trip to Indianapolis, the bus took a sharp turn and hit an incline, damaging the exterior of the bus and injuring two students onboard. "Students on one side of the bus fell out

of their seats and flew to the opposite side," said junior Kelsie Lunsford. After leaving the competition, all of the students were forced to take a trip to the hospital in order to ensure that they were healthy. "My shoulders and back were sore," said Lunsford. The classes

spent a total of six hours at the hospital, delaying their competition.

The students finally arrived to the competition but were only able to participate in one class and the awards ceremony. "Our bus driver was not allowed to drive the students home, so another bus came to pick us up," said Lunsford.

*"The competition taught us to work harder in order to achieve perfection." -Kelsie Lunsford, 11*

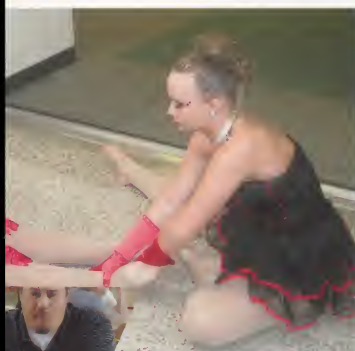






During the Math Superbowl Competition, junior Allison Nolan participates in the Interdisciplinary Round. "Academic Superbowls are a great way to get involved and meet new people. I get to learn more about myself," said Nolan.

Before taking the Math Superbowl test at Merrillville High School, junior Stephanie Younker studies with her teammates on the bleachers. "It was really enjoyable to win first place with my favorite nerds," said Younker.



Sophomore Brooke Maglish stretches her feet with her cousin, freshman Brianne Robertson, before their performance. "Stretching feet is very important. If you do not stretch out your feet, you will not look good while you are dancing," said Maglish.



Sophomore Destiny Moore answers a question on the Fine Arts Superbowl on the subject of music. "I have never been apart of a high school academic bowl before so I thought it would be easier. It was actually really difficult," said Moore.

## Competing for a better *Business*



On March 10, 2012, DECA stayed at The Marriot Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana, for three days to compete in the SCDC, or the State Career Development Conference. Junior Ross Meyers and senior Samantha Aguilar advanced to the following round, or the ICDC. "The competition was awesome, but also stressful," said senior Michael Kent.

"Every DECA competition helps us improve our skills and gain more experience." -Blaire Gearheart, 11

# Direct Takeover

## Some Being the Plants

Drama Club students stressed over Drama Night as the job opening for the director only went out two weeks after the school year began. English teacher, Lisa Megquier, resigned as the drama director after the 2010-2011 school year due to starting a principal internship in order to receive her administrative license. Because of this, students had no director, causing the student directors for Drama Night to have a higher responsibility. Although she wasn't the director anymore, Megquier supervised most meetings and rehearsals leading up to Drama Night in the fall. "Student directing took hard work, dedication and time that I did not know existed. Although it was very tedious, it was rewarding," explained senior student

director Alice Duhon.

After Drama Night, students were frightened about what was to come for the annual spring musical. The former music director for the musical, Eddie Covarrubias, decided to take the musical in his own hands. Covarrubias

directed *Little Shop of Horrors* as well as accompanied the entire musical with help from other musicians. Choreographers also came into play as the rehearsals increased. "We are so thankful to Mr. C for taking over the musical. If he hadn't, there wouldn't have been a *Little Shop of Horrors* production. We decided to dedicate our last production to Mrs. Megquier. The play was a complete success!" said junior Deziree Walker.

*"This musical was my favorite yet!"*  
-Robbie Szabo, 12



Taking instructions from their director, the girls on set get ready to rehearse. "Rehearsal hours were time consuming and difficult, but we still enjoyed going," said sophomore Andrea Leon.

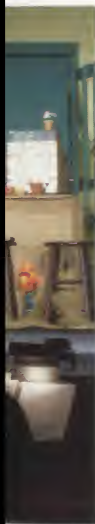
Freshman Amber Holley smiles as the crowd claps for her during bows after the musical. "Being Audrey, the lead female role, as a freshman was hard to balance from school to Drama, but it all worked out successfully!" said Holley.



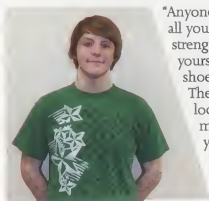


Striking the set after the last performance on Sunday afternoon, freshman Zach Diamond removes part of the wall from the set. "I didn't plan on getting into Set Crew at the beginning of the year, but as soon as I did, I couldn't wait to go back," said Diamond.

During a breakdown before the last show, freshman Kiki Dunn and other girls dance and yell to settle their nerves. "Breakdowns are very inspirational. They get me hyped up and ready for the show!" Dunn explained.

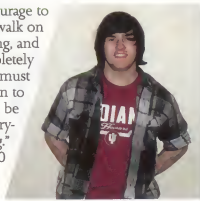


## What does it take to *Act*?



"Anyone can act. You must take all your fear and make it your strength. You need to put yourself in someone else's shoes without being biased. The way you breathe, see, look, and move on stage must be believable with your brain being temporarily someone else's."  
-Avery Malerich, 12

"Acting takes the courage to actually get up and walk on stage, let alone act, sing, and perform as a completely different person. You must have determination to memorize lines and be committed to everything."  
-Joshua Kime, 10



# Bonding for the Better

## Clubs come together to benefit GHS

Whether it's pasta nights, field trips, lock-ins, sleepovers, or just hanging out with the members, every club bonds. The clubs bond to strengthen the relationships between the members of the club to accomplish more in meetings and activities.

There are many different kinds of bonding activities that clubs achieve. Every night before competition, the Pantherettes would gather at senior Mallory Baccino's house for a pasta night.

"We play Encore and eat a ton of pasta to get ready for competition and to help us all relax," said sophomore Marisa Rios.

International club goes on outings to different restaurants of countries to embrace the culture. They also

went to Chicago to the ChristKindl market to look at handmade Christmas crafts and eat food.

"At the ChristKindl market, we saw a lot of neat stuff that people made from a long time ago. It was really interesting," said sophomore Brianna Johanson.

Booster

Club bonds together by making posters and signs to decorate the school and the athlete's lockers.

"Decorating the posters and banners for the sports teams allows us to have a good time with friends, get creative, and show my panther spirit," said senior Kelsey Bonewits.

Because of bonding, clubs build the relationships to make their club more successful. By coming together, their decisions better GHS and its students.

*It brings all of us closer together...  
said Sara Fisch. 10*



High school sweethearts, seniors Alice Duhon and Joel Kepchar, get in the spirit of Halloween. "Choosing costumes was easy since Joel is a runner, and I am a dancer," said Duhon.

While entering the Polar Express, NHS member, senior Stacie Hansen, gets her ticket punched. "The conductor was really in character, and the kids loved it as they came in," said Hansen.

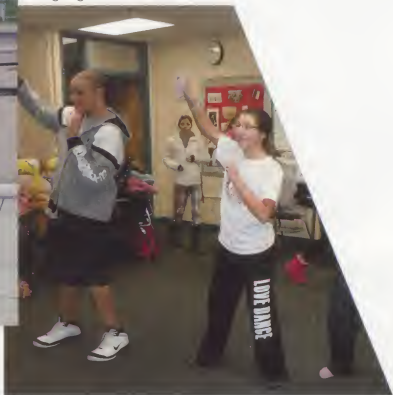






While on a newspaper field trip in Millennium Park, junior Avery Malerich interviews a Chicago resident. "We had to ask random people about what they like about Chicago to get us out of our comfort zone," said Malerich.

Senior Sarah Clark and sophomore Jared Lowe played *Just Dance 2* at the Student Council lock-in. "I was really disappointed because Miss Berzy beat me, and everyone was laughing at her," said Clark.



As their Homecoming float's final touch, junior Sierra Gutierrez puts up the airplanes. "Putting up all of the little details was the hardest part of building the float. It took a lot of us to make it all stay," said Gutierrez.

## Student Council *Iron Oaks*



Iron Oaks is a great experience for StuCo. We all get to know each other and become friends.  
-Megan Tuttle, 12

All of the activities were really interactive and helped us become a better team.  
-Sarah Gates, 10



# Singing Out

## Of this state

This year, Chorale got the opportunity to go on a trip to Orlando and Miami, Florida. For two days they stayed out in Orlando, and Chorale had the chance to go to Universal Studios and sing in front of everyone for the Rising Star Program. They sang songs such as "Hey Soul Sister", "Star Spangled Banner", "Fix You", and "Rockin' Jerusalem".

After they were done singing, Chorale got to walk around and go on rides at Universal Studios. One particular place that they thought was fun and interesting was the Wizarding World of Harry Potter amusement park, which gave them a real life Harry Potter experience. This amusement park consisted of different themed stores, and rides that go with the story line. "The

Harry Potter simulator was scary but exciting!" said senior, Chance's Walker. During the trip, half of the students went back to the hotel before curfew, while the other students went to a restaurant with Eddie Covarrubias, choir. When they

had finished eating their meals, one of the workers gave Covarrubias directions back to their hotel. He ended up getting lost with his students which

lead them to a fence they had to walk around to get back to their hotel. When they went to Miami, Chorale and Covarrubias visited Vizcaya Gardens which was originally a house that turned into a museum because of the gardens. Even though they had a couple complications, everything went well on their trip to Florida.

*"I had a great time in Florida!"*  
- Cole Felde, 12



After practicing several times before their ensemble performance, seniors Brittany Anderson, Emilee Trueblood, Joseph Vacklavik, and Garrett Lite sang "Joy to the World" at this year's Christmas concert. "It was a very exhilarating experience for being my first ensemble," said Anderson.

Practicing a few times each week in the main gym helped prepare Chorale to sing the National Anthem in front of the whole school during the Homecoming pep rally. "I love to sing for my country!" said senior Tyler Yost.



Assisting Eddie Covarrubias and his sophomore choir class on the piano, sophomore Kyle Bulkema explains, "Accompanying most of choir's songs takes stress off of Mr. C. and the rest of us and helps us become a stronger class."

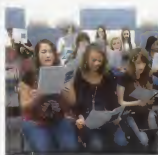
Standing on the risers for their winter concert, junior Meagan Glass sings along with the rest of the choir students who performed songs to get in the Christmas spirit. "I enjoyed singing in front of a huge group of people," said Glass.



Getting ready to perform the "Star Spangled Banner" in the main gym, Chorale rehearsed the national anthem in the band room before they performed. "I find choir to be an enjoyable experience," said senior Kalie Lastagarkov.



## Students Singing It *Loud*





# Organizations

## Working to meet the deadline

The American Revolutionary War was the topic for students who wanted to challenge themselves academically. This topic helped students join the Academic Superbowl team. "The American Revolutionary War topic this year was interesting because it gave a perspective that we didn't learn about in a regular history class," said junior Allison Nolan.

Griffith has five teams including science, English, math, fine arts, and history. The coaches of the teams took a trip down to the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis on October 4, 2011 to learn about the tests and to receive handouts.

Students had to take a test of 25 questions in multiple choice form. Each test taker has 20 seconds to answer each question.

The last five questions of the test are used for a tie breaker. If the team qualifies in the top six, they go down to West Lafayette for their State competition.

Students and coaches prepare themselves by meeting up together and talking about the topic for one to one and a half hours. To be a part of the team, you have to attend a call out meeting, get a recommendation from a teacher, or be a member from the previous year. Each school that wants to participate in the competition must be registered.

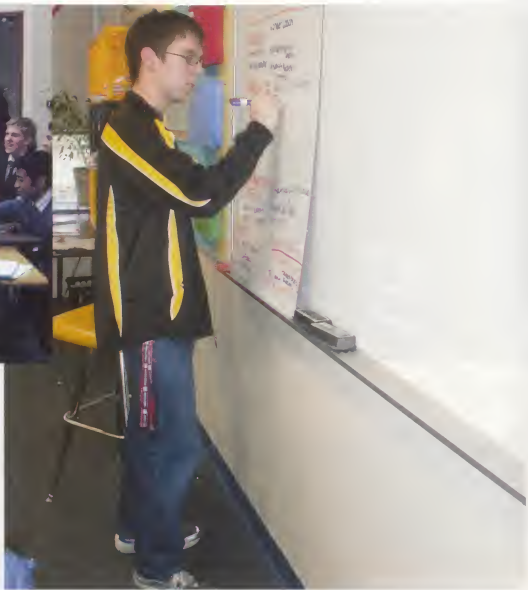
The academic superbowl coordinator is Don Whittemore. "I really enjoy doing the superbowls because students are doing academic things because they want to, not because they are forced to," said Whittemore.

*"Superbowl is a great way of alternative learning."* - Chandler Adkins, 10



Celebrating his opponent's win, senior Ted Fitzgerald congratulates students from Munster by shaking hands. "I enjoy the fact that this DECA bowl is not for competition and it is more for enjoyment," said Fitzgerald.

Brainstorming ideas for the opinion page for issue nine of the newspaper, senior Ryan Zubrick adds a story idea. "I have been on newspaper for three and a half years and it's my favorite hour of the day," said Zubrick.



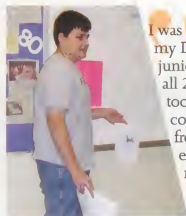


*Seeing all the dogs dressed up helped show panther spirit."  
- Sydney Lidster. 11*

After listening to Eddie Covarrubias, choir, release the information about the musical *Little Shop of Horrors*, the drama club is looking forward to perform. "I'm really excited to start rehearsing because I am one of the main characters," said sophomore Josh Kime.



## Preparing for Success



I was talking about District to my DECA team members," said junior Ross Myers. At District, all 26 of Griffith's members took a 100 question test and completed a role play. Points from both are added together for a total score to determine a rank. Griffith had 14 of 26 state qualifiers.



Preparing to transform the field house into New York City for the Homecoming dance, juniors Cindy McInerney and Manon Carter work on taping black plastic wall paper on the walls. "I love decorating; it gets me pumped for the dances," said Carter.

Ready to break a leg, seniors Rachelle Fogarty and Shi Fassoth do their last final touches before their performance in the play. "I got super nervous doing a headstand on stage in front everybody because I was a cheerleader," said Fogarty.

Junior Blaire Gearheart does more than your average DECA member, she proves that DECA is more than just a high school club. She is the coordinator for all of the District I schools. Gearheart plans district and state competitions. "I was writing out the events for district," said Gearheart.



# Sponsoring for Smart Choices

To the kids of SADD, or Students Against Destructive Decisions, Officer Peter Ghrist is the big man in charge. The SADD club includes ten students that meet and discuss issues and conflicts that occur in everyday life as a typical teenager. Ghrist is the sponsor for the club and is responsible for overseeing the overall aspects of the meetings. "Our main goal is to plan future events that can bring awareness to possible consequences of making destructive decisions," said Ghrist.



**Band**  
 Row 1: Sara Villalobos, Ashleigh Rettie, Celeste Villarruel  
 Row 2: Sara Gatlin, Carlos Gonzales, Nicholas Johnson, Sarah Clavoso, Aisha Morgan, Cara Smith  
 Row 3: Brianna Stull, Jesse Gates, Michael Kent, Nicholas Brummet, Alyssa Niewiadomski



**Booster Club**  
 Row 1: Victoria Mares, Sarah Clark, Mirya Curren, Emily Tuttle, David Lenzewski, Carly Weger, Lisa Brown, Rachel Gaudin, Jordan Bonewitz  
 Row 2: Sierra Gutierrez, Sarah Vrabley, Rebecca Povey, Britni McLamson, Megan Lenzewski, Caylee Adams, Michelle Lenzewski, Stephanie Brandner, Alysa Delgado, Kaitlyn May, Destiny Moore, Andrea Leon  
 Row 3: Eyla Manning, Sydney Hillrich, Stephanie Vrabley, Katalina Villalpando, Melissa Martinez, Janelle Owczarski, Alysa Melchor, Stefanie Soy, Stacy Weber, Julia Drenjak, Anna Solis, Morgan White, Elizabeth Monka, Shana White  
 Row 4: Marissa Rose, Shelby Winchester, Mallory Baccino, Sarah Gatt, Karalyn Jenkins, Emily Wines, Kyla Easman, Jenny Lanfear, Crystal VanWhine, Courtney Washack, Sarah Guastolisi, Sarah Trueblood, Brianna Robertson  
 Row 5: Morgan Collins, Devana Johnson, Ashley Prichard, Vicki Solivia, Sarah Joyce, Liane Rodlan, Terra Martin, Sarah Pluch, Hayley Marshall, Paige Obermyer, Cassidy Grumbles, Sarah Vrabley, Blake Morcon  
 Row 6: Kamille Manning, Cate Gregor, Josilyn Byers, Hannah Vrabley, Katie Bridges, Kelsey Bonewitz, Tessa Trueblood, Melissa Miller, Brooke Brinkley, Brooke Poppychka, Taylor Dunagan



**Cheerleaders**  
 Row 1: Kevin Wilson, Alexander Kepchar, Michael Bodnar, Thomas P., Matthew Miller, Aaron Brown, Evan Masters, Justin Villabos  
 Row 2: Adam Hoover, Ryan Nunez, Laurell Mosley, Ben Russel, Elijah Pierce, Tristin Robertson, Alex Garcia, Nathan Szabo, Eddie Covarrubias  
 Row 3: Maurice Branch, Josh Terzereal, Jonathan Adams, Jordan Mull, Chris Smoot, Antonio Suarez, Nathan Sierra, Bryan Jones



Row 1: Sarah Clark, Lisa Blaski, Shi Fassoth, Stacie Hansen, Chance's Walker  
 Row 2: Stephanie Brandner, Katalina Villalpando, Taylor Steffan, Sarah Guistolisi, Emilee Trueblood, Melinda Burk, Katie Laatzguzon, Rachel Garasick, Eddie Covarrubias  
 Row 3: Tyler York, Quincy Moore, Garrett Litke, Jenny Lanfear, Joseph Vrabley, Jordan Zamdt, Alice Dubon, Joel Kepchar, Kyla Easman  
 Row 4: Mallory Baccino, Hannah Vrabley, Shanaiz Scheeringa, Steven Malone, Troy Yarnelle, Britt Anderson, Amelita Morales, Brooke Brinkley  
 Row 5: Austin Foster, Robert Szabo, Kelsey Bonewitz, Riley Henderson, Jeremy Camp, Robert Megutter, Cole Felde



**Cheerleaders**  
 Row 1: Kaitlyn May, Victoria Mares, Mirya Curren, Emily Tuttle, David Lenzewski, Carly Weger, Lisa Brown, Rachel Gaudin, Jordan Bonewitz  
 Row 2: Sierra Gutierrez, Sarah Vrabley, Rebecca Povey, Britni McLamson, Megan Lenzewski, Caylee Adams, Michelle Lenzewski, Stephanie Brandner, Alysa Delgado, Kaitlyn May, Destiny Moore, Andrea Leon  
 Row 3: Eyla Manning, Sydney Hillrich, Stephanie Vrabley, Katalina Villalpando, Melissa Martinez, Janelle Owczarski, Alysa Melchor, Stefanie Soy, Stacy Weber, Julia Drenjak, Anna Solis, Morgan White, Elizabeth Monka, Shana White  
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 Row 6: Kamille Manning, Cate Gregor, Josilyn Byers, Hannah Vrabley, Katie Bridges, Kelsey Bonewitz, Tessa Trueblood, Melissa Miller, Brooke Brinkley, Brooke Poppychka, Taylor Dunagan





## Concert Choir 1

Row 1: Kaitlyn Duhon, Kaitlyn Manning, Jenna DeRolf, Esty Moore, Sarah Vrabley  
 Row 2: DaShauna Walker, Camesha Scheeringa, Bobby Davis, Zane Fassoth, Kyla Manning, Cameron Jung, Eddie Covarrubias  
 Row 3: Monica Gonzales, Joshua Kime, Ramon Gonzales, Dion Selluns, Christian Adams, Brandon Dyer  
 Row 4: David Schell, Rodney Lewis, Zachary Stickley, Mark Plawewski, Brianne Basham



## Concert Choir 1

Row 1: Kaitlyn Duhon, Kaitlyn Manning, Jenna DeRolf, Esty Moore, Sarah Vrabley  
 Row 2: Brett Brinkley, Megan Garcia, Lauren Hernandez, Sydney Hilbrich, Ezekiel Del Val, Marisa Rios, Dominique Anderson, Eddie Covarrubias, Robert Cheek  
 Row 3: Alex Rodriguez, Deanna Johanson, Jacy Vultovick, Victoria Smith, Sarah Joyce, Benjamin Reitz, Kyle Gordon, Melissa Vieira  
 Row 4: Andrew Felde, Connor McCabe, Cornelious Jemison, Kyle Buikema, Tessa Trueblood, Logan Denny, Lisette Ronaldan



## Concert Choir 2

Row 1: Kaitlyn Duhon, Kaitlyn Manning, Jenna DeRolf, Esty Moore, Sarah Vrabley  
 Row 2: Kaitlyn Duhon, Kaitlyn Manning, Jenna DeRolf, Esty Moore, Sarah Vrabley  
 Row 3: Kaitlyn Duhon, Kaitlyn Manning, Jenna DeRolf, Esty Moore, Sarah Vrabley  
 Row 4: Kaitlyn Duhon, Kaitlyn Manning, Jenna DeRolf, Esty Moore, Sarah Vrabley



## DECA

Row 1: Kaitlyn Duhon, Kaitlyn Manning, Jenna DeRolf, Esty Moore, Sarah Vrabley  
 Row 2: Jackie Johns, Ashley Douglas, Aisha Morgan, Mychael Booker, Brittni McLemore, Sam Aguilar, Scott MacFarland  
 Row 3: Deanna Johanson, Garra Kroslack, Brienna Schramm, Andy Duhon, Alexander Mendoza, Alyssa Niewiadomski, Joshua Kime, Blaire Gearhart  
 Row 4: Joel Kepchar, Ross Meyers, Ted Fitzgerald, Jeremy Soy, Michael Kent, Kiki Dunn, David Schell

## A Discussion With DECA.

What are your responsibilities as a DECA member?

"You have to conduct a business role play and present it at our district competition held in Munster, Indiana."

-Alyssa Niewiadomski, 12



How often does the DECA team hold meetings?

"We meet every other Wednesday for roughly an hour throughout the entire school year."

-Joshua Kime, 10



How do you prepare for a DECA competition?

"We do sample roleplays that Mr. MacFarland has prepared for us or take practice tests online."

-Jackie Johns, 11



"I like Mr. Covarrubias because he is an extraordinary teacher." -Chance's Walker, 12





**Freshmen Class Council**  
**Row 1:** Catlyn Lewis, Toni Tralcoff, Brittany Crozier, Brianne Robertson, Courtney Valentas, Sarah Dodson  
**Row 2:** Matthew White, Emilie Martocchio, Kaitlynn Mang, Kennedy Baltus, Terra Martin, Kourtney Washick



**Freshmen Student Council**  
**Row 1:** Madison Watts, Amber Peoples



**International Club**  
**Row 1:** Emily Solar, Brooke Magush, Sierra Gutierrez, Abby Grabos, Jeanette Salazar  
**Row 2:** Bin-aine Andriessen, Shannon Kunka, Ailey Clark, Stephanie Younker, Stacy Weber, Rosie Quintanilla, Scacie Hansen, Jackie Johns  
**Row 3:** Alyssa Melchor, Caylee Adams, Ashlyn Paris, Clara Kroslock, Emily Witvoet, Brittini McLenore, Blaine Gearheart  
**Row 4:** Deanna Johanson, Vivian Haddad, Steven Marquez, Kelly Lannin, Alice Duhon, Emily Kuzmanoff, Joshua Kune, Rachel Garasik  
**Row 5:** Andy Duhon, Amber Murphy, Jake Schnoor, Jamie Rex, Kalissa Greenlaw, Clarissa Hardy, Mia Dal Santo



**Junior Class Council**  
**Row 1:** Jeanette Salazar, Stephanie Younker, Alyssa Melchor, Taylor Austin  
**Row 2:** Sierra Gutierrez, Miryrea Cisneros, Ailey Clark, Abigail Little, Melissa Martinez, Abby Grabos  
**Row 3:** Rosie Quintanilla, Stacy Weber, Sarah Galambos, Janelle Owczarzak, Julie Duvnjak, Emma Blackard, Stefanie Soy, Caylee Adams  
**Row 4:** Emily Kuzmanoff, Brooke Pospychala, Katie Bridges, Austin Brown, Jordan Long, Mia DalSanto, Andy Duhon



**Junior Student Council**  
**Row 1:** Jeanette Salazar, Miryrea Cisneros, Manon Carter  
**Row 2:** Ailey Clark, Jesus Aldape, Julie Duvnjak, Stephanie Younker  
**Row 3:** Brooke Pospychala, Austin Brown, Jordan Long



**National Honor Society**  
**Row 1:** Sarah Gustolisi, Amy Russell, Rachel Garasik, Scacie Hansen  
**Row 2:** Sarah Clark, Jackie Johns, Stephanie Brandner, Janelle Owczarzak, Caylee Adams, Ailey Clark, Stacy Weber, Blaine Gearheart, Megan Tuttle  
**Row 3:** Michelle Lesniewski, Alyssa Niewiadomski, Victoria Solivas, Steven Marquez, Brooke Brinkley, Brooke Pospychala, Alice Duhon, Elizabeth Kras, Mallory Baccino  
**Row 4:** Miryrea Cisneros, Mia DalSanto, Kelly Lannin, Joseph Vachlavik, Matthew Seillans, Steven Malone, Greg Rothchild, Joel Kepchur, Hanna Vrabley, Abigail Little  
**Row 5:** Stephanie Younker, Jordan Long, Austin Brown, Ted Fitzgerald, Robert Szabo, Andrew Fowler, Julie Duvnjak

# My Life As *Mia Dal Santo*



**Row 1:** Selena Zamudio, Clara Froslock  
**Row 2:** Manon Carter, Melissa Martinez, Ailey Clark, Marris Mahalik, Ryan Zubrick  
**Row 3:** Faith York, Yadi Castellanos, Tristen Olsen, Tyler Palinca, Matthew Seiluns, Ross Smith, Lauren Bitner



**Row 1:** Sarah Guistoli, Ellison Cullen, Stephanie Brandner



**Row 1:** Sarah Guistoli, Stephanie Brandner  
**Row 2:** Stacy Weber, Caylee Adams, Jordan Long, Alyssa Melchor, Chelsea Scofield  
**Row 3:** Lisa Korpela, Amy Bubala, Mireya Cisneros, Alyssa Robertson, Rosie Quintanilla, Taylor Steffan, Janelle Owczarzak  
**Row 4:** Sara Joyce, Ashlyn Paris, Josilyn Byers, Brooke Pospychala, Katie Bridges, Anna Steinhubel, Ashley Pinkham, Cecilia Gonzales, Abby Grabos



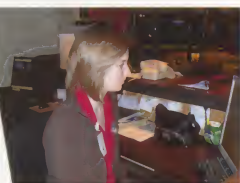
Every week day, Dal Santo arrives at her second hour class at promptly 8:55 P.M., AP United States History. She challenges herself with three advanced classes and demands nothing less than success.

Shortly after arriving home, Dal Santo works hard to finish her French 3 homework with junior Alyssa Melchor. Even after the school day ends, Dal Santo is still diligent in her school-work.



On Monday through Thursday, Dal Santo attends The Dance Connection, located in Hammond, Indiana. She practices modern dance in the evenings and volunteers to teach children on Wednesdays.

On Friday nights, Dal Santo volunteers her extra free time at the Hammond Clinic located in Munster, Indiana. She lends a hand to friendly senior citizens and other people who visit the hospital.



Even after a very busy day of hard work, Dal Santo still is able to find time to hang out with her best friends. Dal Santo shows that a student can be involved and still have a great social life.



**Senior Class Council**  
Row 1: Emilee Trueblood, Sarah Guistolisi, Michelle Lesniewski, Stacie Hansen

Row 2: Hanna Vrabely, Ellison Cullen, Stephanie Brandner, Tori Louviere, Megan Lesniewski, Sarah Clark, Jenny Lanfear, Russ Radtke

Row 3: Kylah Eatman, Amanda Bakko, Amy Russell, Mallory Baccino, Brittany Anderson, Rachel Garastik, Jianni Rivera, Victoria Soliva's, Brooke Brinkley



**Senior Student Council**  
Row 1: Greg Rothchild, Hanna Vrabely, Mallory Baccino, Michelle Lesniewski, Sarah Guistolisi, Ellison Cullen

Row 2: Brooke Brinkley, Megan Lesniewski, Stephanie Brandner, Emilee Trueblood, Stacie Hansen

Row 3: Rachel Garastik, Joel Kepchar, Victoria Soliva's, Megan Tuttle, Sarah Clark

## Spell Bowl Statistics

- |                 |         |
|-----------------|---------|
| 1. Members?     | A. 3000 |
| 2. Competitons? | B. 0    |
| 3. Words?       | C. 2    |
| 4. Practices?   | D. 10   |

ANSWERS: 1.D 2.C 3.A 4.A



**Sophomore Class Council**

Row 1: Sara Joyce, Tessa Trueblood, Yadi Castellanos

Row 2: Shelby Gannon, Brooke Maglish, Emily Duhon, Erica Yost

Row 3: Amy Bubala, Sarah Vrabely, Jared Lowe, Bobbi Davis, Sydney Hilbrich, Destiny Moore



**Spell Bowl**  
Row 1: Ciarra Krosack, Jeff Fitzgerald, Deshawna Walker, Allison Nolan



**Student Council Officers**

Row 1: Sarah Guistolisi, Ellison Cullen

Row 2: Brooke Pospychala, Hanna Vrabely, Greg Rothchild, Mallory Baccino, Michelle Lesniewski





**Row 1:** Donny Hoover, Ted Fitzgerald, Blaire Gearheart, Jackie Johns  
**Row 2:** Joshua Kirme, Kathryn Baum, Corey Josephson, Mike Kent, Kiki Dunn, Sarah Gates



**Row 1:** Shannon Kimko, Jason Gast, Kathryn Baum, Hunter Fleming, Lesley Pietsch



**Row 1:** Courtney Hargis, Elizabeth Kras, Margaret Cartwright  
**Row 2:** Dylan Lounges, Alec Moseley, Katelyn Lisle, Kanesha Jones, Jackie Johns  
**Row 3:** Dashauna Walker, Sydney Lidster, Luke Glass, Kodie Hayes, Donny Hoover, Steven Ramirez



**Row 1:** Allison Nolan, Kristina Collard, Rachel Garastik





**Row 1:** Allison Nolan, Kayla Landuda, Ashleigh Rettie, Jonathan Adams, Brittini McLemore



**Row 1:** Marisa Mureiko, Rachelle Fogarty, Katelyn Lisle  
**Row 2:** Brittini McLemore, Cali Lemus, Emily Witvoet, Peter Ghrist  
**Row 3:** Ciarra Kroslack, Steven Mallone, Mia Dal Santo



**Row 1:** Alyssa Niewiadomski, Chantrell Atkins, Ashleigh Rettie, Elijah Pierce

## Doing What Clubs Do Best

### Student Council



### DECA



### Drama



### Choir



### FCCLA



### Band



**Row 1:** Stephanie Younker, Megan Tuttle, Cindy McInerney  
**Row 2:** Christine Chidichimo, Steven Malone, Andrew Fowler, Steven Marquez

# The Toy Drive Brings Success

Year after year, National Honor Society participates in a Toy Drive during the Christmas season. NHS sponsored a movie night in which they showed "Polar Express". Those who viewed the movie were able to make a \$5.00 donation or more.

Once the money was collected, NHS went shopping for toys that they gave to children.



Row 1: Jackie John, Chandler Atkins, Stacie Hansen  
Row 2: Ross Smith, Kelly Lannin, Rachel Garastik, Blaire Gearheart



Row 1: Sarah Cohen, Arnetia Commings, Destiny Moore, Bobbi Davis



Row 1: Brooke Maglis, Elizabeth Kras, Cali Lernus, Abigail Kik



Row 1: Erica Yost, Megan Garcia, Destiny Moore  
Row 2: Sydney Hilbrich, Sara Joyce, Sarah Gates, Sarah Vrabely  
Row 3: David Schell, Jared Lowe, Tessa Trueblood



Row 1: Lynn Roeder, Liza Black, Kayla Laboda, Holly Shew, Kai Lebrun, Morgan White, Amber Adams  
Row 2: Megan Glas, Tina Brandy, Danielle Falkner, Jaci Vackovich, Christina Slagle, Kaitlyn Meyer, Cecily Jones, Branna Houser, Claire's Waller  
Row 3: Victoria Truitt, Brooke Maglis, Sierra Gutierrez, Melissa Chazo, Stephanie Youaker, Caylee Adams, Da'Shara Walker, Skay Hansen, Jeannette Salazar, Brautney Robertson  
Row 4: Christina Minton, Alexandra Minton, Morgan Dillon, Emily Witrow, Cody Davidson, Alyssa Melchor, Ashley Douglas, Alyssa Delgado, Brittini McLennore, Megan Lesniowski, Ailey Clark  
Row 5: Sarah Kina, Taylor Austin, Cassidy Grumbles, Paige Obermeyer, Kaitlyn Roberts, Case Gregor, Brenna Schramm, Ashley Piskians, Jacyln Wicks, Irene Gutierrez  
Row 6: Victoria Solivas, Ryan Zubrick, Jake Schnoos, Tessa Trueblood, Jared Braddam, Kiti Duns, Michelle Gross, Mia Dal Santos, Haley Marshall

*"We work hard throughout the whole season. We spend every day after school running suicides and sixteens. We fight through 6 a.m. morning practices and work the hardest on defense. We sweat together to win together. We always practice how we play, and take one game at a time. We do our personal best every day to make sure that we are able to finish on top."*

-Alyssa Gebo, 11

On Friday, November 4th, as the last seconds of the clock ran out in the sectional championship game at Morton, senior football player Maciek Szczepkowski kneeled in the turf, experiencing the last moments of his high school football career. The final score was 26-27. "Losing sectionals was really sad. The boys had become like my brothers, and I will actually miss spending so much time with them at practice. I was really proud of my team. We went really far and had a good season," said Szczepkowski.

High school sports bring upon an array of feelings - joy, happiness, disappointment, stress, and companionship. At GHS, there are many student-athletes who experience every one of these feelings during their season, and more. The girls volleyball team this year made it to the regional championship game. Seniors Megan Tuttle and Kelsey Bonewits both broke records during their senior season. "Breaking the record for assists felt absolutely amazing. Knowing all of the work you put into something is actually worth it is just an awesome feeling," said Tuttle.

The boys varsity soccer team experienced a year of close friendships, and they bonded together to support senior Nick Kudyba in his first soccer season since losing his mother to breast cancer. As a team, they embroidered his mother's name on their shirt sleeves.

The varsity girls soccer team had a new coach, which started a challenging year. The whole team

loved our new coach, Coach Wally. He was easy to get along with and brought up our playing skills," said sophomore Yadira Castellanos.

Junior Cindy McInerney finished her soccer season with an all-conference title. "I was really happy to be part of the all-conference team and be recognized for my work," said McInerney.

Despite having a small team, consisting of only nine members, the girls golf team still managed to have a good season. Junior Christy Anzur advanced to regionals. "Regionals was a great learning experience that will hopefully help me advance to state next year," said Anzur.

The boys tennis team this year advanced to the sectional finals. "I had a good season, and I'm proud that I improved my record. I'm going to miss it," said senior Garrett Litke.

The girls basketball team this year faced a rough beginning, losing two varsity players. Senior Kelsey Bonewits decided not to play a few weeks before their first game, against Lake Central, after signing to play volleyball at Wayne State University, a division two school. "My passion wasn't there for basketball anymore. I'm focusing on my volleyball now," said Bonewits.

The boys basketball team went into their season with only three seniors. "Having three seniors gave juniors and sophomores an opportunity to play at a varsity level. There was a disadvantage, though, because there wasn't much experience on the team," said senior Robert Fleishman.

The cheerleaders competed in stunt group competitions, as well as cheering at every basketball and football game. The Pantherettes came together as a close team very early in the season, with the loss of their former coach, Teri Calhoun. Calhoun coached the Pantherette dance team for four years. She battled cancer for nearly three years, and passed away on October 2, 2011. "Miss Calhoun taught us all so much. She showed us what true strength looked like. No matter how sick she was, she always put others first, and was there for us even when she had it so much worse. She not only made us better dancers, but also made us better people. She brought us together as a team, and had such a great impact on all of us," said senior Malory Bascino.







# Calling it Close

## Running for the win

A Friday night routine for the Griffith Panthers would be dark sky, bright lights, full stadium, and screaming fans. Whether the game concluded with a win or loss, Panther fans still scream loud and proud.

Griffith boys dedicate the majority of their time to preparing for the big season. They practice for three to four hours every day and sometimes have two-a-days.

"It's a very long practice, but what needs to be done we get done," said junior Brett Brinkley. What people don't realize is how many enjoyable activities the football team gives up just to be dedicated to the season. Spending that much time with one team might get a little frustrating, don't you think? Not for the football team. They still spend time together before, during, and after the season.

"I learned that fighting among each other doesn't get you anywhere, it just wastes time. Stick together as a team and take it out on your opponent," said junior Steven Marquez.

The boys also spend time together at Bridges Scoreboard every

Thursday night, and pasta night at senior Tyler Yost's house after practice.

This year our boys had a great season with a record of only four losses. They made it through the first two rounds at Sectionals, and unfortunately lost to Morton by one point.

"It was a battle that came down to the final that Morton had no turnovers. Our team took every opportunity to win, we just didn't," said Coach Russ Radtke. This loss meant a lot to the boys, but they plan on getting Morton next year!

"Losing to Morton meant a lot to me because they beat us first game of the season and we prepared for a whole month for them. We all had confidence to win," said senior Austin Foster.

Even though the boys didn't accomplish their goal of making it to State, they still worked tremendously hard all season. They accomplished a lot during their season, both on the playing field and in team cooperation.

"No matter what, next year we're going all the way to state." -Angel Nunez, 11

During the third down with eight yards to go, Griffith is ready to get the ball back to offense, and take the lead of the game. "Offense wins games, but defense wins championships," said senior Carlton Valliant.

"Hobart knocked us out of the playoffs last year, and we wanted revenge," said junior Joey Rivera, as he stands on the field ready to tackle as many people as he can get his hands on.

Preparing to defend the goal line, senior Maciek Szczepkowski is down and ready. "The whole game, I put 100% in, but when it comes down to the goal line, there's a shortage of yards so I put in extra effort," said Szczepkowski.



# Football

## Team Score

Morton	21-14
New Prairie	49-7
Hobart	21-13
Lowell	18-13
KV	55-7
Munster	20-13
Highland	49-14
Andrean	20-13
EC Central	55-20

### Sectionals

Clark	63-7
Hammond High	56-21
Morton	27-26



Row 1: Louis Martinez, Nathan Reitz, Andrew Figueroa, Josh Bodnar, Carlton Valliant, Connor McCabe, Quincy Moore, Joey Rivera

Row 2: Brett Brinkley, Mike Delpino, Todd Fenelli, Tyler Yost, Dakota Broelmann, Brandon Brummet, Jordan Gonzalez, Ryan Dunlap, Julian Cartagena, Tristin Olsen, Preston Nelson, Chance Edwards

Row 3: Emily Kuzmanoff, Mel Scheeringa, Brian Orkis, White, JR Ford, Russ Radtke, Julio Cisneros, Jim Pickett, Dan Santori, Brown, Taylor Louie, Jordan Zarndt

Row 4: Tyler Palanca, Kyle Buikema, Troy Yarnelle, Ross Smith, Austin Foster, Austin Brown, Nathan McNeill, Nick Brummet, Joey Golub, Tyler Lipski, Chris Benko, Tyler Pena

Row 5: Justin Harris, Robby Meguire, Javon Bell, Brandon White, Cameron Kegebein, Ben Parish, Zack Stickley, Zach Grin, Angel Nunez, Maciej Szczepkowski, Robbie Szabo



Waiting for the next play, the boys take a break to listen to what the referee was saying. "It is important to listen to what the refs have to say so you know what to do next," said senior Troy Yarnelle.

## The Key Points

The Griffith football team is not your average high school team. They practice all summer long, every day except Sunday for four months straight. They prepare all year just for twelve games. To some of the boys this means everything, especially the seniors because it's their last year. For some of the seniors ending football season is one of the saddest things they experience all senior year.

"This is the last year I'll ever play with a Griffith jersey on my back and my senior boys," said senior Nathan McNeill.

The boys were huddled in a circle to listen to the play call. Junior Austin Brown is the quarterback, so he makes all of the calls.

"Listening to the play is a really important part of the game, because if you miss it then you don't know what to do," said junior Brett Brinkley. Not knowing the play can let the team down, so all the boys listen attentively. No matter what the outcome of the game is, the Panthers stay a team.

Getting pumped before the game helps the boys play better. It helps with being motivated and mentally prepared for the game. Majority of the time they listen to rock while getting ready for the game. "We blast music in the weight room," said junior Angel Nunez.



During the third down and eight Griffith is ready to get the ball back to offense, and take the lead of the game. "Offense wins games, but defense wins championships," said senior Carlton Valliant.

# Going All the Way

It has been a total of five years since the girls volleyball team won their last sectional championship. This year, the girls were back with another sectional title, which was a big accomplishment for the team. "Being able to play on a team that won sectionals was a great experience because you really get to look back on how much effort that the team had to put in to get you in that position," said freshman Hannah Miller. Even though this was the team's biggest accomplishment overall, the girls gained something more. "This year was the first season during all of my four years of playing that the team became more of sisters than just teammates," said senior Megan Tuttle. Also during the week, the girls, both the varsity and junior varsity teams, participated in team bonding. The girls came together to go to the movies, have sleepovers, and eat dinner together at pasta nights. "The junior varsity girls would come over to my house almost every week for pasta nights. It was a great way to bond together and get to know each other better," said junior Ciarra Kroslack. Because the girls gained such a great

connection, it benefitted each individual player and the team as a whole. In the long run, it made playing during the season more enjoyable for everyone.

The whole experience of playing volleyball can be quite a challenge. It is known to be such a challenge because volleyball is not an individual sport. In order for the team to succeed, they need to work together. In order for the team to get prepared, the girls spent their summer days going to conditionings before the season had even started. On top of that, each of the players had to go through hours of practicing, box sprints, and day long tournaments. All of this work can be even harder for the players when it's their first time playing at the varsity level. This was the story for one of the freshmen on varsity, Kennedy Baltus. "I was nervous about being on varsity because this was all a new experience for me and I didn't really know what to expect. The biggest challenge about this season for me was just trying to fit in with all of the other players and getting used to all of their different styles of playing the game," said Baltus.

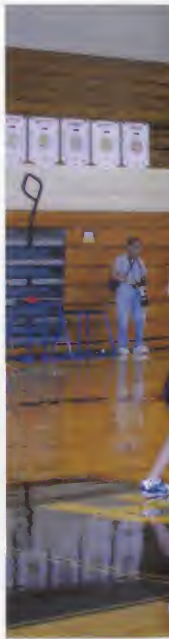
"This was by far the best season that I have ever played." -Megan Tuttle, 12

Gathered in a huddle, freshman Hannah Miller says a chant with her teammates before the game starts. "Being a freshman on varsity was an enjoyable experience for me. All of the girls were friendly and never left me out. In the end we all got really close with each other," said Miller.

Before each game, it is tradition at Griffith High School to pause for the National Anthem. "During that time, I can only think of how hard we worked to accomplish everything during this season," said sophomore Jordan Baltus.



Setting up her serve, sophomore Lisette Roldan gets ready to hit the ball towards the other team. "You have to be consistent and aggressive when you serve because serving is a key point to being successful in volleyball," said Roldan.





## Varsity



Row 1: Megan Tuttle, Jordan Baltus, Kelsey Bonewits, Hannah Miller, Michelle Lesniewski, Stacie Hansen  
Row 2: Melissa Martinez, Melissa Miller, Ally Krajnak, Cathy Dilbeck, Lisette Roldan, Kennedy Baltus, Emily Tuttle

## Junior Varsity



Row 1: Erica Yost, Jenna DeRoll, Vickie Mares, Faith York, Jessie Mazzone  
Row 2: Emily Tuttle, Jasmine Alvarez, Cassie Root, Jen Klapak, Taylor Backe, Clara Kroslock, Melissa Martinez

## Girl's Volleyball

### Team Score

Merrillville	3-0
East Chicago	3-0
Whiting	3-0
Hammond High	3-0
Munster	3-0
Andean	3-0
Hobart	3-0
Winamac	2-0
Merrillville	2-0
North Judson	2-0
Calumet Christian	2-0
Morton	3-0
Highland	3-0
KV	3-1
Lowell	3-1
North Newton	2-1
Calumet	2-0
Gavit	2-0
Wheeler	2-1
Munster	3-0
Andean	3-0
Gavit	3-0
Hobart	3-0
Calumet	3-0
Highland	3-0
KV	3-0
Lowell	3-0
Bishop Noll	3-0

<b>Sectionals</b>	
Lew Wallace	3-0
Gavit	3-0

<b>Regionals</b>	
Andean	3-0

## It All Has to End

Four years is all it takes to complete high school. It goes by so fast and at the end you can't even believe all of what happened in that amount of time. When you play sports, it seems like that time goes by even faster. You look forward

to every upcoming season like it's your last. By the end of those four years, you can remember starting off as a freshman just like yesterday. That's the story for senior Michelle Lesniewski. She has played the sport of volleyball in the same position, middle back, for all four years during high school. The hardest part about her position is getting up the ball once it is spiked into the corners of the court. Along with playing the game itself, there is conditioning needed in order to prepare the players. "The hardest physical activity that I had to do during the season was box sprints," said Lesniewski. All of this hard work paid off in the end when the girls made it all the way to regionals against Andean. "My favorite part of sectionals was when senior Melissa Miller made a diving one handed play. We were probably more excited because of that one play than actually winning sectionals," said Lesniewski. The season is now over for this senior, but there are tons of memories to make up for it. "I will miss playing and, of course, my team."



# Playing with a Purpose

## The Team Sticks Together

Last years soccer season showed how a team can stick together and help support each other, even through the tough times. Earlier in the year, two brothers on the team, junior Thomas Kudyba and senior Nick Kudyba, along with the coach, Wally Kudyba, had to deal with the loss of their mother and wife. The team showed support of the players and their coach during the season by wearing pink shirts that were dedicated to the brothers' mom. They also made a promise to dedicate each game to their coach. Everyone on the team played for a special purpose this year in honor of their teammates and coach.

The team had both high and low points during the 2011 season. They started off the season on the right foot. The first game of the season at home was against Morton High School, who the boys shut out 3-0. This was the first win of the boys' soccer season. Griffith was victorious and had high hopes for the rest of the season. Unfortunately, the boys struggled to continue a winning streak and had a tougher time towards the end of the season. "In the beginning, we thought we would advance to the

second round of sectionals. Even though we didn't do as well as planned, I had a good year with my team," said junior Thomas Kudyba.

At sectionals this year, the boys soccer team did not pass their expectations. They faced Highland High School at their home field and the Griffith boys were defeated in the first round. The final score was 2-0. The boys kept their heads up after their loss. This sectional game was just their motivation to work even harder next year. The varsity team tried their best during this soccer season and were able to stick together, even through the hard times and losses they faced together.

The 2011 soccer season was the last year for the seniors on the team. Senior night was a big night for them. The boys walked out with their family and friends and gave a short speech in order to commemorate their last few years playing the game they love the most. "Senior night was a good time and it was great to see everyone on the team again," said senior Justin Turner.

"I had a memorable year with my team."

-Thomas Kudyba,

11



This year was the last year Thomas Kudyba, junior, gets to play with his older brother, senior Nick Kudyba. "I've enjoyed playing with my brother on the soccer field for the past three years. I will miss him next year," said Thomas.

Before every game, the team huddles up to discuss the game plan. "We talk about strategy and how to get mentally ready for the game," said junior Jordan Gonzalez.



# Boy's Soccer

## Team Score

Morton	3-0
Hobart	5-0
Andrean	3-0
Mooreville	2-0
Northview	5-0
Munster	4-0
LaPorte	2-0
Michigan City	2-1
Kankakee Valley	4-1
Portage	2-0
Bishop Noll	2-1
Lowell	3-1
Clark	1-0
Gvit	8-0
Highland	2-0
Wheeler	2-0
Highland (sectional)	2-0



Row 1: Coach Karl Koch, Steven Sharp, Garrett Walter, Andrew Rothchild, Ron Kinesic, Thomas Kudyba, Mark Plawewski, Joey Vadevich, Jose Gonzalez  
Row 2: Josh Ashenbaugh, Jordan Gonzalez, Ryan Avalos, David Schell, Justin Turner, Christian Anaya

Row 3: Jesus Aldape, Jordan Avalos, Carlos Teller, Nick Kudyba, Nick Long, Cesar Rodriguez, Noah Duvinsky



Row 1: Ron Kinesic, Ben Russell, Al Hassan, Eric Ruth, Coach Karl Koch, Rodolfo Quintana, Mark Plawewski, Cody Tucker, Jose Gonzalez  
Row 2: Jordan Avalos, Mike Alvarez, Zane Fassett, Patrick Borda, Jacob Schroder, Isaiah Jimenez, Nathan Szabo, Sergio Gonzalez  
Row 3: Alex Fowler, Kristian Ayala, Daniel Perez, Matt Potack, Eddie Land, Trevor Steffen, Noah Duvinsky



During his game, Sophomore Mark Plawewski kicks the ball away from the opposing team. "The season started out slow at the beginning of the year but towards the end we progressed," said Plawewski

## Stretching for Success

Before every game, the team gets together and stretches. Senior Nick Kudyba, one of the leaders of these stretches, does as much as he can to support the team before each of the games because it was his last year. "My favorite part of soccer was walking out for the starting line-up, and I'm really going to miss playing soccer with my team," said Kudyba. Everyone on the team also tries to mess around and lighten the mood during the stretches in order to keep the team in a positive, upbeat mood during the game.

Some of the players also get their lucky charms ready before they enter the field. Junior Andrew Rothchild followed the tradition of putting on his right shinguards, socks, and shoes before he puts on his left gear. Junior Jesus Aldape always made sure to have his lucky cross on. "I felt like it protected me because I didn't get hurt," said Aldape.







Senior Brianna Bias gets ready to give a header against Highland High School. Bias was playing with an injured left ankle. "Playing with my hurt ankle was a risk I had to take to help out my team," said Bias.

Defending her goal, junior Katie Christenson guides her team through a difficult game versus Munster High school. "I play goalie almost every game," said Christenson. The junior varsity team lost to Munster 1-0.



## Changes for the *Better*

The 2011 girls soccer team annexed a lot of different experiences this year. The Panthers first new change was a brand new coach, Wally Kudyba. First beginning as an assistant coach to the boy's soccer team, Kudyba brought in a new style of coaching that the girls were not used to. "I thought it was going to be difficult coaching girls because I had coached boys, but my girls were very cooperative," said Kudyba.

After every game won, the team would get into a huddle and chant "1 down, 14 to go" counting down the games.

Both the varsity and junior varsity team got all new uniforms. "The old uniforms were really bad. The numbers on the jerseys were practically gone," said sophomore Vickie Smith. The changes to the girl's soccer team made them feel intimidating and awesome.



## to the maximum

For Griffith High School's girls soccer team, nothing is impossible. This year the girl's soccer team was filled with changes, injuries, and excitement. The team started conditioning in the summer with the blazing heat on their backs. The first serious injury of the summer conditioning happened to junior Rosie Quintanilla. "During practice I had the ball and a defender was behind me. I stepped in a hidden hole and my left knee popped out of place," said Quintanilla. The team thought she was on the ground laughing, but she was really crying in pain. The second injury of the season happened to senior Brianna Bias. "Being a senior and getting injured was really hard for me. It killed me to just sit there and watch everybody practice except for me," said Bias. Both players were on crutches for about half the season and were not able to play the first game of the season.

This year, the girl's soccer team went on a six game winning streak. At their third home game against Lake Central High School, they lost their first game in a vigorous battle to the Indians on a wet and muddy

field. The final score of the game was 2-1. "We definitely should have won that game because we did our best and played harder than they did," said senior captain Alejandra Tellez. Another distressing game for the Panthers was against their rival: the Highland Trojans on Highland's turf. The junior varsity team lost to Highland 1-0. The varsity team lost to the Trojans 5-2. "I really do not like Highland and losing to them especially made me hate them more," said sophomore Yadira Castellanos.

The Panthers faced the Highland Trojans later that same week in their sectional bracket. The Panthers also had the Gavitt Gladiators and the Lake Central Indians in the same bracket with the Trojans. In the last minutes of the game, the Panthers lost to the Trojans 2-1. The girls soccer team cried after their loss to the Trojans.

"I think that I finished my high school soccer season better than I expected I would. I still love all my teammates and am going to miss them," said senior Amy Russell.

"I still love all of my teammates!" -Amy Russell, 12

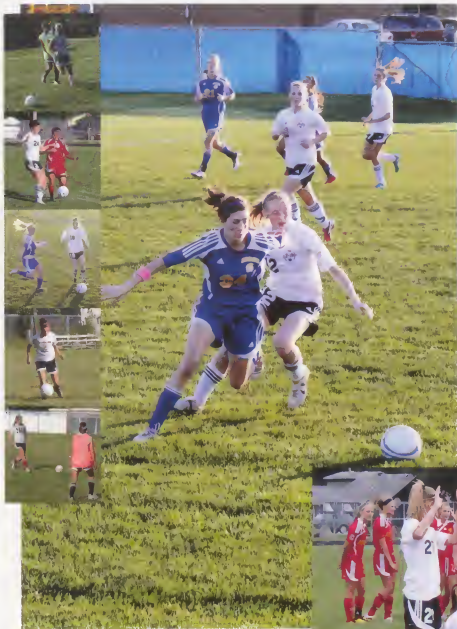
# Girl's Soccer

## Team Score

South Bend Adams	1-0
Bishop Noll	5-0
Hobart	4-0
Andean	6-1
Wheeler	4-2
Munster	3-1
Lake Central	2-1
Merriville	3-1
Kankakee Valley	4-2
Hanover Central	4-1
Lowell	4-0
Hebron	7-0
Chesterton	5-1
Highland	5-2



Row 1: Emily Duhon, Caitlin Brown, Amy Bubala, Lauren Hernandez, Shi Fassoth  
 Row 2: Julie Duvnjak, Alejandra Tellez, Breanna Ally, Cristina Aldape, Kalle Lastagarkov, Janelle Owczarzak, Taylor Steffan  
 Row 3: Amy Russell, Brooke Pospychala, Brianna Bias, Krystal Mendoza



Row 1: Emily Morrison, Andrea Aldape, Sam Bakker, Breanna Houser, Brandi Gerber, Sarah Balboa  
 Row 2: Julie Duvnjak, Jesse Yamelle, Katie Christenson, Stephanie Younker, Cindy McInerney, Janelle Owczarzak, Reanna Danielwitz  
 Row 3: Brooke Pospychala, Brianna Basham, Vickie Smith, Rosie Quintanilla

To try to get the possession of the ball sophomore Breanna Ally tries to beat her Highland opponent. "That game was so close. I was crying after the game because it was our last game," said Ally. Ally plays in the mid-field position.

Getting ready to give her teammate a high-five, senior Shi Fassoth gets her team pumped for a game against Andean High school. "Playing Andean was my favorite game because it was our biggest rivalry," said Fassoth.



# A Run at State

For junior Taylor Austin, running comes as second nature. Her love and dedication for running ultimately paid off when she made it to state for the second time in her three years competing. Her season ended her sophomore year due to a severe hip injury and placing 19th at semi-state at New Prairie. To qualify for state this running season, Austin had to place in the top 15 at sectionals, regionals and semi-state. All of her hard work paid off when she placed 24th with the time of 18:53 at state in Terre Haute.



"State was so exciting. I was extremely happy when I got 24th. Even though my hips were popping out of place, I still finished in a nice place," said Austin.

Austin experienced many difficulties with her hips, but still managed to come out on top in every meet. Austin would often be in extreme pain before a meet if she did not stretch properly. Her hips are not evenly aligned, and can cause Austin a lot of pain. Yet she has overcome all of it and made a name for herself as a runner.

Austin has big hopes for her senior year as a captain.

"Hopefully next year, I will make it to state again and win. I want to lead all of the team members to a successful last season," said Austin.

Striving to beat his best time, senior Joel Kepchar powers through another long race against Andrean. "I love running at invites because there is more competition," said Kepchar.

Waiting to start the race, senior Ryan Zubrick focuses on his main goal to win. "I get really pumped right before we take off, but I try to stay focused," said Zubrick. The team put in their best effort but had a hard loss against Munster.



## Cross Country

### Team

### Score

	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Boys</u>
Munster	48-23	45-18
Lowell	35-23	45-18
Highland	29-28	40-21
Hobart	28-22	46-20
KV	34-33	36-30
Andrean	32-23	50-15

**Sectionals** 3rd 7th

**Regionals** 9th



Row 1: Alyssa Robertson, Brittany Burbridge, Timothy Bullard, Kailie Drummund, Jason Howard, Anna Steinhubel, Samantha Aguilar  
Row 2: Tom Cunningham, Ryan Zubrick, Sarah Kuna, Steven Paprocki, Ted Fitzgerald, Ed Clay, Taylor Austin, Joel Kepchar, Shannon Shiedel





Huddling with his team before a meet, senior Timmy Bullard prepares to race at the Whiting Invite. "We try to really focus in on our mind set and come out on top," said Bullard.

The team enjoys their last run before sectionals at their practice at Oak Ridge Prairie. "The team this year was really close. We were like a family," said freshman Jessica Leslie. Leslie's best time during the 2011 season was 24:25.

# Racing to the Top

## *Passion for Speed*

Running in the hot summer sun to running in the crisp, autumn air, the cross country team ran every meet striving to beat their opponents and their biggest rival, themselves. To achieve their best times, the members of the cross country team ran up and down hills, jumped over small creeks, and travelled extreme distances.

"You have to build up your endurance and muscle strength to jump over the obstacles," said senior Ed Clay.

Beginning June 15th, after Tinich Camp, the runners would start their training for the season. Meeting at Oak Ridge Prairie, Indiana Dunes, and GHS, the team spent every day running to prepare for their meets. Early morning practices occupied many of the runners' summer days.

"It really stinks getting up early and practicing in the heat during the summer but when the season comes, it all pays off," said sophomore Steven Paprocki.

The girl's cross country team finished conference 3-3, while the boy's team went 0-6. This record was partially due to the unfortunate injuries that occurred during the season. Many of the meets were clo-

se in score but the team unfortunately did not do as well in every meet as they would have hoped to.

Although GHS did not come out on top at every meet, they had some very successful runners such as junior Taylor Austin, senior Joel Kepchar and freshman Brittany Burbridge. They had the best times of the season and advanced after sectionals.

"We left everything we had on the course," -Samantha Aguilar, 12

"We were surprised on how well Brittany ran since she is only a freshman. She blew us away, and we expect great things from her over her next three years of high school," said coach Shannon Shiedel, FCS.

For the seniors on the team, their high hopes of making it to regionals and beyond ended this season. The juniors, sophomores, and freshmen have another chance to beat their best times and get as far as they can.

"Since there is not a lot of us on cross country, all of us became really close as the season went on. I tried to get close to everyone since it's my senior year. As a family, we all left everything we had on the course," said senior Samantha Aguilar.

# Never Give Up

Life is ten percent what happens and ninety percent your reaction to whatever comes your way. Being disabled, either physically or mentally, doesn't have to stop someone from living an "average life." This applies to senior Rachel Solar, who has a prosthetic leg and participated on Griffith's varsity golf team. "Playing golf has helped me become a stronger person," said Solar. "I have to work hard to get a good outcome, and never give up... even if it does get hard." Solar has fun while working hard with golf. Everyone needs something in their life to brighten it up. Solar struggles with everyday activities as simple as walking. It is hard for her to keep up with other girls on the team and if she is in pain, she always toughs it out and keeps on going. Solar has to put out extra time and effort to be able to do the things she does. It takes a lot of patience and emotional stress to play a sport, not only for average students, but especially for physically disabled



Practicing at the driving range, sophomore Chandler Adkins works on improving her shot. "Golf is a lot harder than people expect. It takes hard work and time to get better," said Adkins. Adkins spends her weekends golfing.

By checking the distance at hole four, sophomore Chandler Adkins gets her shot straight at Sherwood Golf Center. "Practice makes perfect," Adkins said. Adkins is focused and ready to go on with the match.



## Girls Golf Team Score

Clark	224-251
Andrean	231-237
Highland	212-236
Lowell	205-244
Hobart	200-219
Crown Point	199-231
Munster	196-244
KV	194-219
Hanover Central	180-230
Munster	184-231



Row 1: Sara Maywald, Da'Shauna Walker, Ann Ficht, Chandler Atkins, Rachel Solar  
Row 2: Christy Anzur, Kathryn Baum, Mike Worosz, Paige Obermeyer, Brittini McLeomore

# Shooting for Par

## Making Changes

A lot of students don't consider golf a sport but they don't understand the time and patience it takes to be good. Golf may not require running, jumping, or tackling but it requires hard work and determination just like any other sport. Griffith's golf team practiced three days a week, from six to about eight in the morning.

"Waking up early was refreshing and we got most of the course to ourselves," said sophomore Da'Shauna Walker. Meets were played during the day and lasted about two and a half to three hours depending on how they were playing.

Golf is said to be a very calming sport but that is not always the case. It can be considered a frustrating sport. The team expanded from four players two years ago to ten last year, and finally to nine players this year.

The goal is to get the golf ball into the hole with the least amount of strokes. For other sports its how many points you can get but for golf its the complete opposite. You don't want the high score. A regular match for the girls is nine holes. Invites are eighteen holes. Although the golf team didn't have such a great season this year, junior

Christy Anzur made it individually all the way to Regionals. Anzur finished second in the individual spot at sectionals. She qualified for the top six overall at sectionals. "It was an awesome accomplishment for it being my first year on the team," said junior Christy Anzur.

"I hope to make it all the way to State next year by working hard," said junior Christy Anzur.

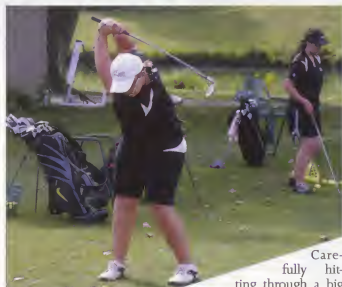
Every team has their own way of bonding but for our girls golf team it's going to Culvers for ice cream after meets. Most team bondings consist of eating pasta. The girls golf team has started a tradition of going to Culvers after meets suggested by senior Rachel Solar. Solar may have started a new trend for all the years under her and she hopes it carries on.

This year has been a great season for the girls even with the losses. Next year the girls look forward to the exciting short bus rides driven by Mike Worosz, P.E.. Hopefully, with positive determination and a lot of practice, the majority of the girls will qualify for Regionals. State is the goal for most high school students, but it's a privilege to get there.



Looking for the ball, senior Rachel Solar helps the other team. Players have to look for the balls after they are teed off. "Golf is actually really hard and takes a lot of focus and determination just like any other sport," said Solar.

Lifting her club carefully to make sure nothing happens to it, Sophomore De'Shauna Walker moves onto the next hole. "In gold, to not think is the best thinking," said Walker.



Carefully hitting through a big bucket of golf balls, junior Ann Ficht prepares for her match at Sherwood Golf Center against KV and Hobart.

"Golf is something you can do your whole life unlike a lot of sports that you can get injured in," said Ficht.







During one of his tennis practices, junior Matt Seiluns practices his ground stroke. "I kept messing up but finally perfected it," said Seiluns.

During tennis practice, senior Kodie Hayes practices for his next meet. "You have to play for chaos," says Hayes.



# Rackin'

## Up Points

This year, the Griffith boys tennis team went farther than they have in past years. "It was one of the best years we have had yet," said junior Ross Myers. The boys tennis team advanced to sectionals after their regular season play. Sectionals are normally played in Munster, but this year they were played at a new location. The tennis team played in the sectional finals at Merrillville High School, which was beneficial for them. Sectional finals consisted of six teams and took place on September 22, 2011. The boys tennis record stayed approximately the same this year in comparison to past years, but participating in finals was the farthest they have ever gone in sectionals. This turned out to be a success for boys tennis, even though they didn't end up winning.

Some of the players play tennis for many different reasons, such as playing to stay in shape for other sports they happen to participate in or to just simply have fun or relax. For example, senior Garrett Litke plays tennis for fun and to relax and have a good time. Litke also participates in basketball and baseball and plans on playing baseball ra-

ther than tennis in college. On the other hand, senior Kodie Hayes plans on playing tennis in college and hopefully pursuing tennis as a career in the near future. Hayes believes that he has a really good shot at becoming a professional tennis player because his coaches and team have told him that he has a natural form. He has done very well, especially for a student who started the season later than the others. Hayes enjoys playing tennis because it's different from the other sports. It's more of a two in one sport for him because he can play as a team and for himself as well.

Freshman Brett Tauber plays tennis mainly to stay in shape because he plays both basketball and baseball after the tennis season. It also helps him practice his foot work for baseball. Tauber plans on playing tennis next year to better himself in not only playing tennis, but in playing baseball as well.

Many players, however, play tennis just to enjoy themselves. Senior Garrett Litke sees playing tennis as an escape. "I like playing tennis because it's relaxing and I have a good time while I play," said Litke.

"It was one of the best years we have had yet." -Ross Myers, 11

## Serving Up Siblings

The tennis team is very close. Almost as close as a family. But the irony in this situation is that junior Matt Seiluns and sophomore Dion Seiluns are brothers! Matt expresses how his brother, Dion, decided to switch sports this year with boys tennis instead of football. Matt also said how Dion caught on so quickly and eventually became better than him with a year less of experience. Dion likes the fact that he and his brother are on the same team because Matt helps Dion with all the different techniques required in playing tennis. Matt also gives his brother advice on Dion's mistakes and how he can improve. They spend a lot of time warming up, practicing, and playing doubles together. Dion enjoys playing tennis because it's different and he's able to play with his brother and friends that he made on the team this year. "I love how close my brother and I are and how we can spend quality time with each other playing a sport that we both like to do," said Dion.



At tennis practice drilling with coach Tracy Sines, senior Garrett Litke manages to improve his record for the tennis season. "It was a great last season and I'm going to miss it," said Litke.

Playing doubles, junior Ross Myers and sophomore Matthew Csonka play a good game but unfortunately lost playing against Wheeler. "Tennis is amazing and I can't wait for next year," said Myers.



## Boy's Tennis

### Team Score

Hobart	3-2
KV	3-2
Munster	5-0
Highland	5-0
Gavit	4-1

<b>Sectionals</b>	
Andrean	5-0
Merrillville	4-1



Row 1: Tracy Sines, Ross Myers, Garrett Litke, Brett Tauber, Jordan Long, Dion Seiluns, Mark Harnew  
Row 2: Matthew Csonka, Kodie Hayes, Matt Seiluns, Aaron Brown

"KV was my favorite game because it lasted a really long time and the games kept getting tied up and exciting." -Dion Seiluns, 10

# Girl's Basketball

## Team Score

Lake Central	50-45
River Forest	55-19
Wheeler	33-24
Hobart	30-25
Morton	41-27
Clark	47-15
Hebron	41-23
Rensselaer Central	57-25
Andean	54-32
Munster	33-29
Bowman Academy	53-43
Wheeler	38-35
Hanover Central	50-44
Kankakee Valley	57-49
Hammond Gavitt	47-23
Highland	49-29
Lowell	46-27
East Chicago	51-27
Gary West Side	41-39
Hammond High	45-44
Calumet	55-19
Gavitt (Sectional)	47-15
Gary Roosevelt (Sectional)	52-39
Hammond High (Sectional)	35-19
South Bend St. Joseph (Regionals)	34-31



Row 1: Brianna Nelson, Taryn Grin, Alyssa Gebo, Taylor Austin, Sammi Adams  
Row 2: Courtney Bell, Vanessa Blankenship, Emily Witvoet, Brooke Brinkley, Emma Blackard, Jasmine Alvarez, Amy Bubala



Row 1: Celestine Keys, Darnenna Williams, Lisette Roldan, Alish King, Taryn Grin  
Row 2: Jasmine Alvarez, Jasmine Bell, Megan Zurewski, Melissa Ahlquist, Jessica Leslie  
Row 3: Amy Bubala, Tori Tracoff, Brianna Carter, Courtney Bell

Toward the end of the third quarter, sophomore Sammi Adams takes a shot at making her free throws. "When I shoot a free throw, I try not to think about anything or not to focus on something too much," said Adams.

## In it, to win it!

The Lady Panthers started their season off with a mind set of going big or going home. Some of their fans doubted the team's success, but the Lady Panthers were able to prove them wrong. During their games, whether they were home or away, everyone pushed themselves harder and harder in order to bring home the win. Throughout the season, the girls were showing their fans that they had what it takes. "Practices were hard, but we got through them as a team. All of the hard work was worth it in the end. We were able to show our potential at sectionals," said freshman Courtney Bell.

The first round of the tournament started off with sectionals. The Lady Panthers had their head in the game. The first game the girls played in resulted in a win. They continued this streak throughout the next two games of sectionals. In the end, Griffith's girls basketball team won the title of sectional champs against Roosevelt. "Being a sectional champ makes me want to play harder so that I can play more next year," said sophomore Amy Bubala. After sectionals, the team proceeded to regionals where they lost their first game to South Bend.







After the sectional championship game, junior Taylor Austin climbs the ladder and cuts off part of the net. "This season went well, even though everyone thought we wouldn't go far. We were able to prove them wrong," said Austin.

During a time out, the team gathers around Coach Tom Golumbeck to discuss the game plan. "Basketball has been a good experience and I will miss the season, as well as my teammates next year," said senior Emily Witvoet.

# Together as One

## Girls give it their all

Throughout the year, the Lady Panthers work together as a team in many ways. In the summer, everyone attends summer conditioning and are determined to work hard. At conditioning, both varsity and junior varsity work together as one. "Waking up early in the morning was really hard to do. I wanted to sleep in so badly but I knew that all this hard work will pay off in the end," said sophomore Jasmine Alvarez.

Another event the Lady Panthers participate in the summer is the little girls summer camp. In the camp, the high school girls basketball players help teach little girls the tips and tricks of basketball. "I like to work with kids, so the little girls basketball camp is something I really enjoy," said senior Brooke Brinkley.

By the end of October, the Lady Panthers come together again by attending the field trip to Iron Oaks. The girls learned how to work as a team in order to get the job done. They went through so many activities that also allowed the team to become closer with one another. "The Iron Oaks trip was a blast. As we worked together, it

"Basketball is my passion and I can't wait to give it my all next season and win regionals."

-Tori Traicoff, 9

showed me our potential to act as a real team. I am really excited to go next year because I know it helps everyone out in the end," said freshman Brianna Carter.

During the basketball season, the girls once again show that they are a true team. On the night before games, the girls follow a common tradition of going to pasta night. Everyone eats pasta and loads up on the carbohydrates so that they are well prepared for the games. "I love pasta so much. Some of the other teammates and I race to pasta night because we want to be the first ones served. It's also another way that we get to bond as a team," said sophomore Emma Blackard.

Another tradition is the prayer before they play. To ensure their luck, the Lady Panthers circle up and say a prayer together. "This was the last year of my basketball season and I will truly miss it next year. The prayer circles before the games made me feel confident and after, whether we won or lost, I knew we all played our hardest," said senior Emily Witvoet.

# Boys Basketball Team Score

Whiting	40-37
Clark	49-42 (OT)
Morton	72-49
Highland	67-50
Crown Point	67-42
Hobart (Wheeler Tourney)	47-37
Clark (Wheeler Tourney)	42-30
Hanover Central	70-61
Hobart	40-38
East Chicago	80-45
Gavit	58-55
Andean	75-60
Munster	77-30
Hammond High	60-58
Calumet	55-48
Rensselaer Central	58-55
Bishop Noll	75-49
Kankakee Valley	55-51 (2 OT)
Lake Station	54-30
Lowell	75-72

## Sectionals

Gary Roosevelt	75-56
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Row 1: Stephanie Brandler, Flint Powell, Garrett Litke, Erick Johnson, Kyle Buikema, Jesse Smith, Amanda Bakko  
Row 2: Jeff McDaniel, Edward Clay, Brandon Gale, Ben Parish, Robert Fleishman, Austin Brown, Justin Fronck



Row 1: Matt Colomes, Kyle Buikema, Brandon Dyer  
Row 2: Rodney Lewis, Tyrrell McLeurn, Stephen Fry, Brandon Gale, Kortland Bryant



Row 1: Aaron Brown, William Jarrells, Zachary Diamond, Robert Hernandez, Kentrell Allen, Mavrick Richardson  
Row 2: Lawrence Mosley, Joshue Terzanat, Brett Teuber, Brandon Sike, Michael Lunford, Antonio Suarez, Chad Campbell

During their pre-game warm up, senior Garrett Litke gets his team ready to play. "Being a captain, I feel like it's my responsibility to look out for my team," said Litke. Litke has played on the basketball team since his freshman year.

Bonding is a common part of team sports. It brings the team closer together and helps them feel like a family. Every team has their own way of bonding. The boys basketball team has pasta nights at different times during their seasons, which the parents of the team put together for the boys after practice.

Pasta nights were located in the lobby right outside the main gym. The team ate dinner together, along with any of their family that wished to attend. The dinners usually consisted of pasta, salad, bread, and dessert.

"I love having pasta nights. They're a great way to bring the team together, especially before a big game. The team is usually quiet; we mentally prepare for our next game. It's a nice feeling to have the team around you. And the food is always amazing," said sophomore Matt Colomes.

The parents of the team put a lot of work into organizing the pasta nights. They had to get permission to have it, and get enough tables and chairs for the team. If it wasn't for the parents, the team wouldn't have had successful pasta nights.



## Playing Together

# Working on up

## Striving for success

After having a rough season, making a comeback is not an easy thing to accomplish. It requires dedication and hard work from all the players and coaches. But even with all that, sometimes that still is not enough.

The boys' season started in the summer with practices a couple days a week. The summer practices gave the players a chance to practice their skills for the upcoming season, since many had not played since the previous season ended. The team didn't practice from the end of July until conditioning began again in the fall, where the main priority was getting the team in shape. Conditioning lasted up to the first regular practice of the season in November.

"Playing basketball on the high school team takes a lot of dedication. You can't just go to practices when you feel like it. The team depends on each other to be at practice every day and to work hard to get better for the next game," said junior Jesse Smith.

For the first few weeks of practice, the team really works on learning their plays for the season and getting their defense up to the level that

it needs to be at. All the little things that are needed for the season are fixed before the first game.

Injuries always hurt a team, and figuring out how to work around them is always a challenge. Junior Austin Brown dislocated his shoulder the weekend before sectionals started while snowboarding. Brown played a large role on the team, and not being able to play affected their outcome. Junior Ben Parish was also injured towards the end of the season; he damaged his ACL playing kickball in team sports.

"It's hard to have to play without players, especially when they are an important part of the team. We did our best to win without them, but our best just wasn't good enough," said sophomore Flint Powell.

The boys' season didn't go as well as they had hoped it would. With only three wins, the team has a lot to work on for next season. "I'm really excited for next season. Even though the last few years haven't been too good, I feel that if everyone puts in their best effort from the beginning, we'll be good," said sophomore Erick Johnson.

"I'm really glad I made the high-school basketball team."

—Chad Campbell, 9



Shooting free throws against the Hanover Central Wildcats, junior Austin Brown focuses on making the shot. "I try to take the game one step at a time, and not get ahead of myself. That's the most important thing I can do on the court," said Brown.

While being announced with the starting line up at Munster High School, senior Robert Fleishman walks on the court. "I've come a long way since freshman year, and I'm proud of myself for starting my senior year," said Fleishman.



At a Griffith football game against Morton, the Pantherettes form a "G" in a letter block. "I love football games because they prepare us for competition season," said freshman Taylor Dunagan.

This year, "team" came to mean more to the Griffith Pantherettes than it ever had before, as they learned to rely on each other for support after the loss of their former coach, Ms. Teri Calhoun. Calhoun had coached the Pantherettes for four years. On October 2, 2011, however, her courageous two and a half year battle with esophageal cancer came to an end.

"Losing Miss Cal was one of the hardest things I've ever been through. She was so strong and she taught us so much. She always told us that we were the reason she lived so long, and knowing this made every minute of practice worth it. We're all blessed to have known her," said senior Hanna Vrabely.

Calhoun touched the lives of every Pantherette that she coached. "She was more than a coach; she was like our second mother. I'll never forget her competition morning breakfasts, her montages at the end of the year, or team bonding at her house," said senior Mallory Baccino.

In remembrance of Calhoun, the Pantherettes wore purple emblems on every competition costume. They wore a purple cancer ribbon on the back of their pom uniform and purple rhinestones on their hip hop shoes. The seniors received purple flowers for senior night and Calhoun's old Pantherette shirts that say "Coach" and "Ms. Calhoun" on the back as gifts. The seniors wore these shirts during the award ceremony at the State competition.

## Live Strong, Dance Stronger

Standing and waiting for their pom music to start, the Griffith

Pantherettes focus on their competition routine. "Dancing at basketball games is scary because you are closer to the student section," said sophomore Sarah Vrabely.

## Competition

Host	Pom	Hip Hop	Ensemble	Soloist
Clark	4th	4th	1st	1st
Munster	2nd	3rd	3rd	1st
Kahler	2nd	2nd	2nd	1st
Lake Central	1st	2nd	1st	1st
Lake Central (Regionals)	2nd	2nd	2nd	1st
New Castle (State)	5th	4th	1st	1st
			Sarah Guistoli Brooke Maglish Sarah Joyce Brienne Robertson	Brooke Maglish



Row 1: Sarah Guistoli, Mallory Baccino, Sarah Clark, Hanna Vrabely  
Row 2: Sara Fisch, Vicki Soliva, Katie Bridges, Emilee Trueblood, Kathy Karwaka  
Row 3: Brienne Robertson, Rebecca Perez, Sydney Hilbrich, Sara Joyce, Tessa Trueblood, Sarah Vrabely, Marisa Rios, Brooke Maglish, Taylor Dunagan

# Dancing

## With a Purpose

This year proved to be yet another busy and very long season for the Griffith Pantherettes. Tryouts for the 2011-2012 season were held in April 2011. Early summer consisted of intense conditioning and skills practices, along with a Future Pantherettes Dance Camp in early July. The Pantherettes and the campers performed in the Fourth of July Parade. In late July, the Pantherettes attended a four day UDA Dance Camp at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, Illinois. During this time, they learned various routines and took technique classes, while still finding some time to explore the resort and go swimming. "The most memorable part of UDA camp was definitely doing 'The Wop' in a room after curfew with two other teams," said sophomore Marisa Rios.

The Griffith Pantherettes also learned their entire competition pom routine at the end of the summer. They spent four hours each day learning this routine for a week.

The Pantherettes spent the fall making up and learning football routines, learning their competition hip hop routine and preparing for the upcoming competition season. The Pantherettes performed at every home football game. "Football season was my favorite because

it was more relaxed than competition season," said senior Vicki Solivals.

On October 2nd, the Pantherettes faced a devastating loss when their former coach, Teri Calhoun, passed away. The Pantherettes came together to accept and adjust to a new coach, Joanne Joyce, while making sure to keep Calhoun's memory a large part of their season.

In December, the Pantherettes began both basketball season and competition season. They performed competition routines at home games and attended six competitions, including the State Finals. During competition season, they competed in the pom, hip hop, small jazz ensemble, and solo category. The ensemble team consisted of senior Sarah Guistoli, sophomores Brooke Maglish and Sara Joyce, and freshman Brianne Robertson. Maglish also competed as a

soloist, against every other sophomore, junior and senior soloist in the state. The Pantherettes placed fifth in pom and fourth in hip hop at state, and left with a state champion title in ensemble and solo. "It felt amazing to win first place in ensemble at state because we worked really hard and we deserved it," said sophomore Brianne Robertson.

"This year, we had a reason to dance."

-Rebecca Perez,

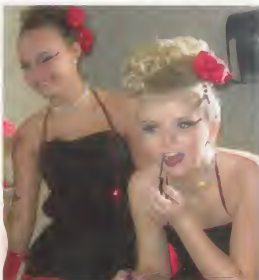
10

## Learning Dance Lingo

### Extension

In an extension, the dancer holds her leg near her face with her other leg on the ground. Both legs are straight and the extended foot is pointed.

Marisa Rios, 10



Getting ready to compete ensemble at the IHSDTA State Competition, sophomore Brooke Maglish applies lipstick in the mirror with freshman Brianne Robertson. "I loved ensemble, it was one of my favorite dances that I've ever done," said Maglish.

In December, the Pantherettes held a Future Pantherette Dance Camp for girls aged preschool through eighth grade. Performing at the showcase with her group, senior Sarah Clark smiles. "The little girls love camp, and its great to see them enjoy it," said Clark.

### Grande Jeté

In a Grande Jeté, the dancer leaps to a full split position. The front leg sweeps up.

Brooke Maglish, 10



Vicki Solivals, 12

### Genie Jump

A Genie Jump is very similar to a toe touch. In a Genie Jump, however, the head is tucked.



### Arabesque

"Arabesque" is a French term meaning "in Arabic fashion." The dancer stands on one leg with the other extended behind her.

Sara Fisch, 10

"This turned out to be a great year." -Sara Fisch, 10

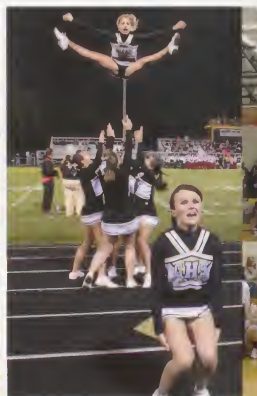
# Cheerleading To the End!

The 2011-2012 season brought a lot of unexpected things for this squad. Going to a new camp and having male lifters join for the first time were just a few to name. "Even though we had a rough season and we lost our coach in the middle of the year, we still stuck together and got through everything, with the help from Mrs. Vehrs, and I am glad she helped us," said freshman Christy Slagle.

This summer the girls went to an extreme stunt camp at Indiana University in Bloomington. Most girls did not know what to expect out of this camp considering it was the squads first time attending. All the girls made great memories in between all the long hard hours they put in to compete at this camp. "I will never forget this cheer camp and all the memories I made there with all the girls, but the best were ninja rolling down the hall at two in the morning and laughing so hard, because Christy Slagle and Alexis Singer peed their pants," said freshmen Kourtney

Washick. This year was the first time in many years that the GHS cheerleading squad had male lifters. Sophomore Tyler Lipski, Michael Delpino and senior Josh Bodnar was the answer to a new addition to the cheer squad. The main reason they joined was to stay in shape for the next football season and their spring sports. "Cheerleading is all about using muscles, and that would help me get better at football," said Delpino. Having only a three day try-out and the one Saturday to learn what most girls learn throughout their years of cheering was a task taken upon these guys as one would say "impossible". "The boys were incredible assets to the squad. They learned quickly, they were strong, and they always brought positive energy to every practice and game," said senior Kyla Eatman. "Having the guys made doing more college like stunts easier for the girls to accomplish. Stunting with the guys was great. They're hard working and they always brought positive attitudes no matter what the situation was," said freshmen Savannah Gutierrez.

"Cheerleading was like a long fight, broken nose and being kicked and punched everyday."  
-Tyler Lipski, 10



During a quarter cheer at the home varsity football game, sophomore Dana Lesniewski hits her toe-touch basket toss. "Basket tosses are my favorite stunts because I love doing all the tricks in the air," said Lesniewski.

This year at the pep rally the cheerleaders performed a quarter cheer, stunt and a competition routine. "It is really fun flying, but at times it can be scary, depending on your stunt," said freshman Emilie Martocchio.



To keep the crowd pumped, sophomore Destiny Moore goes into a full at a time-out during the Lowell basketball game. "When I'm flying, I just tune out the entire world and just think that the spotlight is now on me, and I like it that way," said Moore.



Row 1: Lisa Calvillo, Sarah Dodson, Ellison Cullen  
Row 2: Dana Lesniewski, Kylah Eatman, Kamille Manning, Destiny Moore  
Row 3: Morgan Dillon, Jenny Lanfear, Josh Bodnar, Tyler Lipski, Michael Delpino, Crystal Vanwhite, Emilie Martoccio



Row 1: Kourtney Washick, Elizabeth Morikis, Kyla Manning  
Row 2: Christy Slagle, Savannah Gutierrez, Alexis Singer

Starting high school can be stressful as it is, but adding sports into the mix makes it seem like your life is nonexistent. As a freshman, you need to prepare yourself with a new schedule to fit in all of your practices, homework, studying, and a little bit of time to spend with your friends. Sarah Dodson began her freshman year trying out for the cheerleading squad. She ended up making the varsity cheerleading squad, along with freshman Emilie Martoccio. Dodson has been cheering since the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. "My favorite thing about cheering is actually being there and cheering for the team, stunting is just another positive thing," said Dodson. Dodson is a base and flyer on squad. A base is the girl who holds up the stunt and a flyer is the girl who is in the air. "It's pretty fun doing more than one spot. It also shows me if I put my mind to it, I can do anything," said Dodson.

Dodson had a lot of good moments throughout her first year of high school cheerleading. "The most memorable moment would have to be going to the extreme stunt camp this summer and being a flyer for the first time in my life," said Dodson.

Dodson plans on doing cheerleading for the rest of her high school career. While doing it for four years, she has hopes that the program will grow. "What I really hope to see is that we all become a lot closer and that we go to competitions and do great," said Dodson.



Showing off their hard work, sophomores Alexis Singer and Michael Delpino did a shoulder stand during the basketball game. "Stunting with the guys for the first time was definitely difficult to get used to, but in the end it made all stunts easier," said Singer.

At the boys home basketball game, senior Jenny Lanfear flew for the first time. It became a tradition that there would be a senior stunt group every senior night. "I was glad I passed the fear and did it, but it was terrifying," said Lanfear.

## Cheering to Defy *All Odds*

# Bowling to the Top

## Team member returns to semi-state

For a senior to go to semi-state is a big deal, but for senior Margaret Cartwright it was an even bigger deal since she was the only person from Griffith to qualify. In order to qualify for semi-state, a bowler has to bowl a 500 series. To find the score of the winning team, they add up all the team mates scores and which ever team has the highest wins.

"Going to semi-state was such a huge accomplishment for me this year because its my senior year. It was not my first time going to semi-state because I also went my sophomore year," said Cartwright.

Cartwright started bowling because her parents were bowlers, and she wanted to follow in her parents' foot steps. Her grandma is the one who encouraged her to try out for the high school bowling team.

Cartwright's definition of bowling is a sport that anyone can do and have fun doing it. Bowling means a lot to her even though she is not going to pursue a career in it. However, she is going to the Calumet College of Saint Joseph on a bowling scholarship. "I am extremely excited to go to college so close to home so I can come home when-

ever I want and be able to see my friends that are still in high school all of the time," said Cartwright.

She can not imagine going away to college. Cartwright thinks that it would be too hard on her to not be able to see her family all of the time; especially her little brother who is only in elementary school. "I would be lost with out my little brother and vice versa. He looks up to me," she said.

"My family is a big part of my life. I go to them when I need advice. My dad would take me bowling before the season started. He would help me get better at throwing the ball and not getting gutter balls," said Cartwright.

Even when a team member does get a gutter ball, everyone laughs it off. It is not a big deal to the team because they all know that everyone has their bad days. They just try not to let it affect their bowling skills no matter how bad the case. "Everyone worked hard during the season and I'm so proud of the team this year. We all did our best and tried our hardest to get as far as we could," said Cartwright.

At semi-state, Cartwright bowled a 523 series.

Grabbing their bowling balls to take their turns, senior Margaret Cartwright and sophomore Melissa Vieyra exchange a few inspirational words. "For me personally in bowling, the best feeling is to get a strike," said Vieyra.

Practicing one last time right before a match at Plaza Lanes on January 11th, 2012, senior Margaret Cartwright warms up her bowling arm. "It does not matter if you mess up in bowling; everyone cheers for you regardless," said Cartwright.



Discussing their strategy for the game with his teammates, junior William Bogan plans on ways to bowl even better. "Life is like bowling. If you try to get somewhere, you usually end up in the gutter," said Bogan.



# Bowling

## Team Score

Hobart	W
Edison	W
Calumet	W
Highland	L
Wheeler	W
River Forest	W
Morton	W

Sectionals	1st
Regionals	10th

Semi-state	
Margaret Cartwright	523



Row 1: Katelyn Roberts, Margaret Cartwright, Courtney Hargis, Elizabeth Kras, Cali Lemus  
Row 2: Samantha Monko, Sarah Koliboski, Melissa Vieyra, Shelby Ingbreton, Samantha Johnson



Row 1: William Bogan, Ross Myers, Jared Lowe  
Row 2: Brian Scheeringa, Lucas Glass

## Strikes to get to College

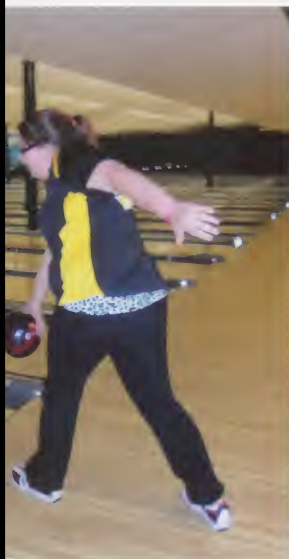
Going away to college is a dream of many, but for senior Elizabeth Kras that dream has come true. Kras has been signed on for the bowling team at Grand View University in Iowa. She is looking forward to the crazy and exciting college environment and getting to know new people. She verbally committed in February and actually signed on March 31st, 2012. Kras is not looking forward to the hectic schedule of college bowling and having to work out in order to participate in the meets.

Living on her own will take some time for Kras to get used to. Being so far away from home will be especially difficult. She says that no matter how far from home, she will not lose contact with her friends and family. Going to college in Iowa will be hard because she does not know anyone there, but that is one of the reasons she is going away to college, to meet new people.

"I can not wait to go. It is going to be a little scary at first, but I will get used to it in no time," said Kras.

"I look forward to being on a team where everyone is there to bowl and not mess around, because to all of us bowling is very important," said Kras.

Kras is already starting to get ready for college because she is so excited. "College bowling is such a different experience and no one knows me there. It will kind of be like I am starting all over again."





# A promising future

This year the Panthers were able to overcome obstacles and do very well in the sectional swim meet. Four boys were able to qualify for the second round of sectionals, and four other underclassmen were able to achieve top times. "With just one senior graduating and six solid sophomores and juniors returning next year, I feel that the team is in a position to do great



things next year and have a great record," said junior Danny Bolda. The three relays this past year consisted of juniors Thomas Kudyba, Jordan Long, Danny Bolda, and sophomore Logan Denny. "Next year the relays will be the same and we only need to drop a few seconds in order to break a couple records. I really hope that next year we will be able to achieve that," said Denny. Aside from records, the team also has the potential to win more meets next season. "At sectionals, I finally felt that the team began to swim to its full potential, and I hope that we can take that into next year," said sophomore Vid Dragutinovic.

During the pre-meet warm up, sophomore Ross Smith jokes around with the coach. "I joke around a lot during swimming to keep the atmosphere light," said Smith.

Swimming the 100 yard breast stroke, sophomore Logan Denny breathes between strokes. "I love swimming the breast stroke and have been swimming it my whole life," said Denny.



## Boys Swimming

### Team Score

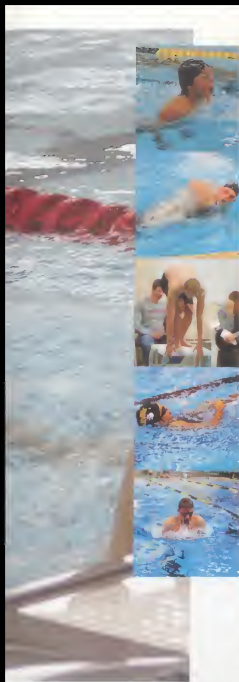
Hobart	81-72
Kankakee Valley	112-66
Munster	142-37
Gary West Side	68-41
Gavit	83-66
Wheeler	94-67
Highland	133-49
Morton	84-61
Lowell	103-59
Hammond	95-80
Calumet	95-84
East Chicago	114-83
Hammond	114-65
Bishop Noll	124-106
Clark	106-71

Sectionals

7th place



Row 1: Justin Vilalobos, David Jancosek, Celeste Villarruel, Stephen Duhon, Sergio Gonzalez  
Row 2: Tom Cunningham, Josh Ray, Jesse Gates, Nick Kudyba, Ross Smith, Ben Russel, Danny Bolda, Danelle Bulotovic  
Row 3: Doug Price, Logan Denny, Thomas Kudyba, Vid Dragutinovic, Rodolfo Quintanilla, Andrew Pelot, Shannon Sheidel



While swimming the 200 yard freestyle, junior Jordan Long takes a much needed breath. "The 200 gets extremely tiring towards the end of the race, but it is important not to breathe too much," said Long.

Before the start of a race, sophomore Vid Dragutinovic gets ready to start his event. "The start is a very important part of the race and can determine the outcome of the race," said Dragutinovic.

# A season full of obstacles

## Boys pull together

After losing four seniors and having just ten returning swimmers from last year, the boys swimming team had just fifteen swimmers to start the season. "I was shocked to see just fifteen boys come out this year," said junior Danny Bolda. The team also had a new coach this year, Danelle Bulotovich, who was originally hired as an assistant, but was later named head coach. As the season approached, the boys began to see the numbers begin to dwindle. "Many of the younger kids didn't realize how hard swimming was I guess, and they couldn't handle it," said junior Thomas Kudyba.

At the start of the season, the team was down to just eleven boys. Despite a small team, the boys were able to pull together and have a winning record for the season. The team finished with a record of 11-8, but the record did not show how well the boys actually swam this season.

When the conference meet rolled around, the boys still began to suffer more losses, and were down to just nine boys. "We knew that we

had no shot at winning conference, so we went into the meet with a mind set of just swimming our best, and hoping to get our best times of the year," said junior Vid Dragutinovic. The boys, however, did not swim nearly their best and left the meet disappointed. "The meet did not turn out how myself, or how the boys expected it to. I knew as their coach that we would have to step it up in practice in order to achieve top times at sectionals," said Bulotovich.

"This season was challenging but we pulled together and had an eventful year."

-Vid Dragutinovic, 10

"Practice was horrible for the next two weeks because we swam nearly 8,000 yards every day, but we knew that it was important," said sophomore Logan Denny. Sectionals were held at the Munster Aquatic Center. The boys went into the meet with just eight boys with the same mentality as they had for conference. But this time each

boy was able to achieve their best time, and four were able to place in the top eight. "I was very pleased with how the boys swam. The three relays were all on the bubble of making the top eight," said Bulotovich.

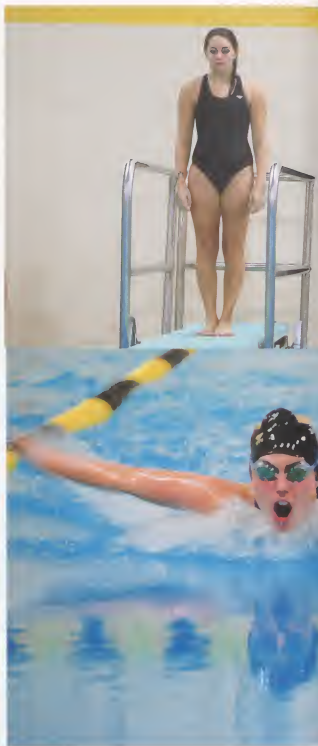
## Steppin' It Up

For the girls' swim team, the season started out shaky. Upon dealing with a new coach, the stress of the season starting weighing on the girls' shoulders. The new changes started reflecting on the results of their meets. Senior Kalie Lastagarkov, captain, knew she had to do something about it. "As a captain, I knew I had to push the team to the best of their abilities," said Lastagarkov. She knew it was crunch time. She began to help the girls individually and was optimistic toward the season and their future meets. As her positive attitude increased, the girls grew more excited about the season.

Even though Lastagarkov had to better her team, she also was concerned about her performance in her races throughout the season. The stress of being a captain did not phase Lastagarkov whatsoever. She placed 15th at sectionals on the 100 fly and 7th for both the 200 medley relay and 200 free with junior Allie Meece, sophomore Shelby Gannon, and junior Jesse Yarnelle. Lastagarkov also placed 2nd in the 100 butterfly at the Griffith Invite. "Although it was a rough year, the girls worked so hard and accomplished many of their individual and team goals," said Lastagarkov.

After spotting her competition, junior Jesse Yarnelle tries to speed up. "Whenever I see people ahead of me, I get really mad and try to pull through and beat them," said Yarnelle. Yarnelle won her race against Calumet and beat her best personal time.

Powering through her breast stroke, senior Kalie Lastagarkov tries to come out with a win. "I take each and every race very seriously and always try my best to beat the swimmers next to me," said Lastagarkov.



## Girls Swimming Team Score

Highland	135-48
Lowell	131-51
Munster	145-38
Gavit	<b>88-58</b>
Hobart	101-69
Kankakee Valley	119-67
Wheeler	125-54
Morton	117-40
Hammond	122-50
Calumet	122-59
East Chicago	131-81
Hammond	131-78
Bishop Noll	137-58
Clark	137-77

Sectionals 6th Place

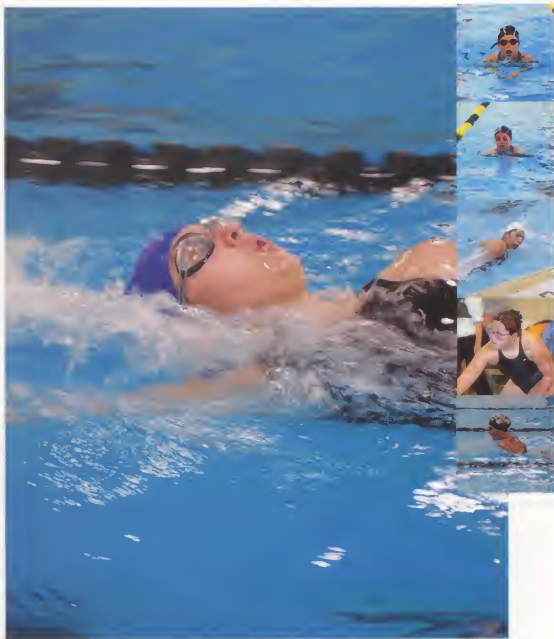


Row 1: Samantha Aguilar, Courtney Valentas, Brittany Burbridge, Manon Carter, Bri-ann Andriessen, Maegan Glass, Breanna Sanchez, Kati Lebrun  
Row 2: Katie James, Rebecca Schnoor, Jeanne Scheffel, Jesse Yarnelle, Melissa Le He Chiao, Shannon Kunka, Cara Smith, Megan Garcia  
Row 3: Tom Cunningham, Doug Price, Shelby Gannon, Ana Sois, Sarah Kuna, Celeste Villaruel, Kalie Lastagarkov, Sydney Gonzalez, Annika Lanting, Shannon Scheidel, Danielle Boiatovic



Junior Bri-anne Andriessen prepares herself for her final dive at their home swim meet. "Before I take my dive, I get really nervous because I feel like I'm going to mess up in front of everyone," said Andriessen.

Senior Ana Solis takes long, deep breaths as she finishes her back stroke. "Back stroke is my favorite because it's easiest to do, and I can breathe better," said Solis.



# to Victory

## Wave of success

The 2011-2012 girls' swim team had a rough season. As a team, they battled a relevantly small team, players leaving the team, and a disappointing loss of a coach. The team took these struggles as a challenge and did their best to pull through with a successful season.

Conditioning starts early November with open swim. This gives every swimmer the opportunity to start becoming excited about their races and get back in shape. "Practices before the season help me get serious about the season and really start focusing on my goals for the year," said junior Manon Carter. Carter's season however, was cut short after a back injury.

Like Carter, the team also suffered many injuries. Freshman Courtney Valentas, had surgery in January to have her appendix removed, and was forced to miss the sectional meet. "It was really hard to deal with my injury because I had worked so hard the entire season, and I was not able to swim the most important meet of the year," said Valentas.

The girls season was full of unexpected losses. At the start of the sea-

son many girls came out for the team, but as it progressed much of the team began to quit, were unable to swim, injured, or found it difficult to manage their jobs. The record began to reflect what was happening with team in a negative way. "In the beginning, I felt that the mood was different because of what happened with Sam [Fies], and we were upset about it," said junior Sarah Kuna.

The two captains, senior Kalie Lastagarkov and junior Allie Meece, knew that they had to do something to pull the team back together. "Danelle [Bulotivic] had Allie and me have a meeting with the girls and see what we could do to make the team practice harder, and begin to focus on winning," said Lastagarkov.

The team eventually got back on track and were able to finish the season with eight wins, giving them a record of 8-6. The girls went into conference and took an unexpected last place. "It sucked taking last place, but we knew that sectionals would be better," said Meece, which was exactly what happened, as nearly every girl got better times and the team finished in 6th place.

"I was kind of scared of the outcome of our season at first, but we really pulled through as a team."

—Megan Garcia, 10

# A *Run* at Semi-State

Seasons change from freshman year to senior year. The majority of the wrestlers mature more and get more experience over the years. Sophomore Nate Reitz can agree with that.



His season was a lot more consistent with wins because he was stronger, smarter, and more experienced. He ended the season with 31 wins and 8 losses in the 113 pound weight class.

"You get out what you put in," said Reitz. Semi-state was a great opportunity to show other schools what you've got. Practices were longer, more difficult, and more intense than they were for the normal season. Preparing for a match includes watching what you eat, practices, and mentally focusing yourself. Reitz won his first match against a Delphi wrestler but struggled and lost his second to a Crown Point wrestler. "I am very glad I made it as far as I did considering it was only my second season on the high school wrestling team," said Reitz.

For the third time, freshman Connor Guziur was announced winner of his match against an Andrean wrestler. "I had a very experienced season and I am extremely excited for next year," said Guziur.

Having a two on one and trying to get a tilt for three near fall points, senior Zach Muller tries to pin his competition. He made sure to be more serious this year since it was his last. "My season went by too fast and I know I am going to miss it a lot," said Muller.



## Wrestling Team Score

Lafayette	53-20
Delphi	47-24
Warren Central	57-18
Zionsville	57-18
Roncalli	64-6
Lowell	42-22
Harvest Classic	2nd place
Lake Central	39-24
Munster	42-34
Midlan	63-12
Chatterton	54-21
La Porte	53-23
Andrean	76-0
Highland	61-15
KV	48-30
Morton	55-12
River Forest	57-20
Hobart	37-29
Calumet	42-27
Lake Station	45-33

Sections 1 3rd place



Row 1: Matthew Miller, Nate Reitz, Connor McCabe, Tyler Yost, Zach Muller, Nick Stassin, Connor Guziur, Evan Masters, Cedric Fassoth  
Row 2: Joey Jacinto, Ryan Dunlap, Anwar Issa, Aaron Meltz, Adam Hoover, Ryan Camp, David Cohen, Jayson Howard, Thomas Plessek, Nathan Szabo  
Row 3: Dan Perez, Nathyn Sierra, Thomas Tompkins, Justin Herrera, Jose Perez, David Higgins, Julian Wright, Michael Darrough, Victoria Meres  
Row 4: Russ Radtke, Louie Martinez, Justin Harris, Jevon Bell, Brandon White, Andrew Zarndt, Adam Henson, Travis Walls



Working on his tilts, senior Nick Stassin tries to pin a wrestler from River Forest. "Wrestling is the hardest sport on the planet and the experience I got from the sport I wouldn't change for the world," said Stassin.

While shaking hands with a wrestler from Calumet, junior Ryan Camp gets mentally prepared for his match. "The match was difficult but I managed to push through it and ended up winning it," said Camp.

# Take Down Room to Improve

Every year, the Griffith High School wrestlers go to a meet called, the Harvest Classic at Lake Central. During the 2003-2004 season, the Griffith wrestlers won the meet. Ever since then, Head Wrestling Coach Travis Walls and his team has had a difficult time placing that high ever since. Every season until the 2011-2012 season didn't finish in the top three because Griffith wrestlers didn't have the team effort that they did this season. Everyone played their part and received at least one point towards the total team score.

Sophomores Nate Reitz (113) and Louie Martinez (132) and seniors Nick Stassin (160) and Tyler Yost (195) finished third for their individual score. Freshman Connor Guziro (119) and junior Ryan Camp (170) finished fourth. Senior Zach Muller (126) and junior Preston Nelson (152) finished 5th. The combined points from every Griffith Wrestler led them to get second place. "Our biggest achievement was taking second place at the Harvest Classic because a lot of our teammates placed really high," said Yost. Since then, coach Walls is excited for the next three years to come. In-

"Hard work and dedication is what will get you where you want to be in wrestling."  
-Adam Henson, 9

stead of having only three to five freshmen, there were fifteen for the 2011-2012 wrestling season. Walls is determined to make the upcoming sophomores the best they can be. "Having forty students on this years wrestling team made this year an awesome year. As a team, for the first time in a long time, we competed at all levels of wrestling: a ninth grade team, junior varsity team, and a varsity team. This absolutely made it an outstanding year. It was so fun to coach these student athletes and I am only losing four seniors so I cannot wait for next year," said Walls.

Many freshmen lettered their first year on the high school wrestling team including freshmen Cedric Fassoth, Connor Guziro, Adam Henson, Josiah Hernandez, Adam Hoover, Anwar Issa, Evan Masters, Matt Miller, Nicholas Mosqueda, Daniel Perez, Tommy Plessek, Nathan Sierra, and Nathan Szabo.

Every high school team includes people who have improved from their first year. The most improved wrestlers this past year, according to coach Walls, was senior Zach Muller, varsity, Jevon Bell, JV, and Anwar Issa, freshman.



# Girls Tennis

## Team Score

E.C. Central	0-5
Bishop Noll	0-5
Lake Central	0-5
Clark	2-3
Portage	0-5
Highland	0-5
Morton	2-3
Kankakee Valley	0-5
Lowell	1-4
Andrean	1-4
Munster	0-5
Hammond High	3-2
Hobart	0-5
Wheeler	1-4
Calumet (Sect.)	3-2
Gavit (Sect.)	3-2
Munster (Sect.)	0-5



Row One: Michelle Urena, Michelle Torres, Faith Adams, Melissa Chiaro, Jeanette Salazar, Samantha Johnson  
 Row Two: Karina Silva, Stacy Weber, Cecilia Gonzalez, Alsondra Acevedo, Kaitlyn Meyer, Kassy Lopez, Taylor Jones  
 Row Three: Chelsea Waddell, Amber Atkins, Jacy Vuckovich, Mark Harnew, Amber Lowe, Alyssa Carter, Chloe Norton



While swinging to hit the ball, junior Ali Acevedo uses the leg-crossover technique to slam the ball in the opposite court. "This is my third year on tennis and I absolutely love it! Senior year will most definitely be the bomb!" said Acevedo.

In the match, junior Karina Silva prepares herself to serve the ball. "Being part of the tennis team means a lot to me because I have worked hard to earn a spot on varsity. It really shows me how much I have progressed," said Silva.



During the first few games, the freshmen get their play time on the courts and get their feel of a real tennis match. "I enjoy being on the tennis team and plan on doing it again next year," said freshman Melissa Le He Chiaro.

# Got VARSITY?



the tricks of the trade. There also is a lot more pressure on the varsity tennis team. This season, varsity has a fresh new set of faces representing Griffith High School. Varsity number one singles was taken over by junior Michelle Urena for the 2012 tennis season. The rest of the line up consists of another set of varsity singles and doubles. These players switched off during the season. Coach Tracy Sines liked to let other people get a taste of varsity instead of constantly keeping the same people on varsity. "I like to put the girls in an intense varsity atmosphere so that they will get a feel of what their future tennis season will be like," said Sines.

As for the varsity number one singles, Urena officially claimed her spot. During her freshman year on the Griffith High School tennis team, Urena made the junior varsity team. Once sophomore year began, she decided to take things to a whole other level. She continued to dedicate her time to tennis by attending all the tennis practices in the season. She went to the girls tennis conditioning in the summer and during the winter. When this year tryouts came around, Urena felt like she was ready for varsity. Once the season really started, Urena got the varsity spot she had worked for. As the season began, Urena had some difficulties. As she got back into her zone, Urena was making a comeback during her matches. "Being able to be on varsity is so different to me because I felt like just the other day I felt like I was just a freshman on junior varsity. I didn't even know that a different racket and grip could effect the way I play. Now, I know all

ing to work extremely hard to get what I want. I'm excited to see what awaits me my senior year on the tennis team!" said Urena.

## You just got served!

### Griffith girls man up

The Griffith Girl's Tennis began preparing for their season in the summer of 2011. Their summer conditioning focused on perfecting everyone's serve and technical skills that is involved during a game of tennis. "I tried to attend most of the summer conditioning practices because I really wanted to focus on perfecting my game. I did see progress and was glad that I attended them," said senior Alyssa Carter. Another event the tennis girls did this past summer was volunteering for the little kids tennis camp. "I liked that I was able to teach the kids how to play tennis. I also felt good about myself at the end of the day because I was able to help improve their game," said junior Jeanette Salazar. Even from the tennis camp, the Griffith High School girls were still able to pick up useful tips and tricks.

Coach Tracy Sines and Assistant Coach Mark Harnow also had winter conditioning in order to prepare for the season. While working out in the upstairs gym, the girls performed a lot of running drills as well as arm workouts with dumbbells. "During the winter, I was able to work on my returns and volleys. It was a lot of help for the season that

came in the spring," said Jacy Vuckovich, 10. All of the girls on the team were getting positive results by attending conditioning in the winter.

The girls went into the season with a positive mentality. Whether they win or lose, they all stuck together as a family.

They did not get a lot of wins this season, but that did not matter to them because they all knew that they had fun out on the courts and tried their best. "Even though we were not the best, we still cheered each other on and had hope for each other. We were not going to let a simple lost bring us down," said Michelle Torrez, 11.

When sectionals came around, the Griffith girls team was ready to go. The first round of sectionals was against Calumet and the girls won 3-2. The next round was against Gavitt and Griffith once again brought home the win with a score of 3-2. The last round of sectionals was against Munster, and the girls lost 0-5. "We all worked really hard and tried our best. It's not always about winning, but to have fun with the team," said Kaitlyn Meyer, 10.

"I considered our tennis team a family. The seniors this year will be missed," said Taylor Jones, 9.

# Boys Golf

## Team Score

Gavit	171-266
Wheeler	175-182
Portage	169-179
Whiting	187-239
River Forest	187-250
Kankakee Valley	190-193
Highland	185-190
Munster	166-184
Hobart	165-182
Hanover Central	175-179
Calumet	179-200
Morton	179-234
Andean	158-176



Row 1: Jonathon Baccino, Mark Plawecki, Michael Worosz, William Bogan, Brandon Brummet  
Row 2: Josh Ashenbaugh, Dakota Broelmann, Jacob Loomis, Thomas Plesek  
Not Pictured: Nick Stassin

Lining up his shot at Southshore golf course, senior Nick Stassin competes against Hanover Central. "All I do is go out there and play," said Stassin.

## Playing Together

On May 24 the boys golf team participated in Conference at Sandy Pines Golf Course. The Varsity team competed against the five other teams in the NCC conference: Highland, Kankakee Valley, Munster, Hobart, and Andean. The team's lineup for the day included seniors Nick Stassin and Josh Ashenbaugh, junior Jacob Loomis, and sophomores Jon Baccino and Mark Plawecki. The team had an overall good day

finishing third in the conference. Plawecki ended up making second team all-conference and Ashenbaugh made honorable mention.

"Being awarded honorable mention was a huge accomplishment because it proved that all my work throughout the season payed off," said Ashenbaugh.





# A 'Whole' in One

## Two Players off to Regionals

On June 1st, it was miserable 54 degrees and raining at Palmira Golf Course in St. John, but the Boy's Golf team still competed in their Sectionals against thirteen other teams. The five Varsity team members who competed at Sectionals included seniors Josh Ashenbaugh, and Nick Stassin, and sophomores Mark Plawecki, Jonathon Baccino, and Dakota Broelmann. Two members of them team, Stassin and Plawecki, ended up advancing to Regionals.

"I had a good chance going into sectionals, and it was great to see myself achieve this goal of advancing to regionals," Plawecki said.

Stassin scored a 90 for the eighteen holes, but ultimately had to compete in a playoff for his Regional bid. He played a one hole playoff against another competitor from Hanover Central, who also scored a 90 on his round. Stassin ultimately won with a score of three strokes to four. Stassin qualified as

the third individual qualifier.

Plawecki advanced as the first individual qualifier with a score of 84 on his round. He finished with the fifth best score out of every competitor at Sectionals.

The Regional was held on Friday June 8th at Beachwood Golf Course in LaPorte, Indiana. Stassin and Plawecki competed against the other individual qualifiers and team qualifiers from Northern Indiana for a chance to compete in State which is held in Indianapolis every year.

"It was so nerve racking to have to compete in a playoff to win a spot in Regionals."

-Nick Stassin, 12



Senior Josh Ashenbaugh crouches down to line up his putt as he golfs against Hanover Central. "My motivation to get out on the course is hoping to get to State," said Ashenbaugh.

Competing at Sectionals, Mark Plawecki watches his shot roll up onto the green. "One cannot have any doubt on what one can accomplish," said Plawecki.

## A Runner At Heart

Taylor Austin is a three sport athlete who has excelled at sports since she was young. Although Austin plays basketball and used to play softball when she was younger, Austin has always loved running most. "Since forever, I have always just loved to go on runs, and in middle school and high school I began running cross country and track competitively," said Austin. She has qualified for state the last three years in cross country and this year was able to qualify in state for track. Austin runs the 1 mile race, and a lot of conditioning is required. However, Austin is not able to train as most girls do. "I don't train year round for track, but I am always doing something during the year to make sure I stay in shape for the next season. Austin also runs for Nike on the weekends throughout the year, and goes on sprints periodically.



In mid air, senior Ed Clay tries to stretch as far as we can during the long jump. The long jump is one of my favorite events because I get to jump as far as I can, and I enjoy that," said Clay.



Stretching before an event seniors Troy Yamelle and Robert Mequier, really focus and stretching correctly. "Stretching right is a very important thing to do, because you do not want to get hurt doing your event," said Mequier

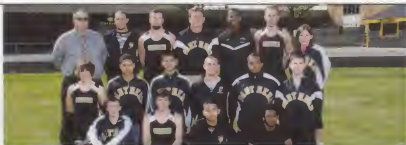


## Track

### Team

### Score

	Girls	Boys
Highland	70-51	86-51
Lowell	102-30	87-43
Munster	85-47	95-36
Kankakee Valley	95-31	77-53
Hobart	71-57	104-28
Andean	86-36	66-54
<b>Sectionals</b>		
6th Place		



Row 1: James Davidson, Joel Kepchar, Alex Rodriguez, Trayvon Carr  
Row 2: Alexander Kepchar, Joey Dalton, Steven Paprocki, Troy Yamelle, Cornelius Jeminson, Andy Duhon  
Row 3: Brian Orkis, Jared Lowe, Maciej Szczepkowski, Russ Radtke, Ed Clay, Robert Mequier, Jenna Berry



Row 1: Vanessa Blankenship, Destiny Bargas, Rocio Sandoval, Shi Fawoth, Camisha Scherings, Marisa Rios, Brittany Burbridge, Megan Garcia  
Row 2: Alejandra Sandoval, Sarah Balboa, Angel James, Brittany McLemore, Jessica Leslie, Victoria Mares, Caitlin Brown  
Row 3: Travis Walls, Jazmine Bell, Cassie Root, Janessa Salinas, Taylor Austin, Celestine Keys, Shannon Scheidel

Pressed up against the fence freshman Brittany Burbridge tries to work out a calf cramp. "Cramps really suck because it does not allow you to practice, which means you don't improve," said Burbridge.

Preparing to throw discus, senior Maciej Szczepkowski begins the proper motion "Technique is very important during discus, because you it may determine how far you throw," said Szczepkowski.



# A Race to the Finish

## Running at State

At the call out meeting this year, both the girls and boys track teams noticed that numbers were unusually low. "At the start of the season we had like 30 girls come out, but by the end we only had like 25," said junior Taylor Austin. The season seemed doomed in terms of their record, however individual goals could still be achieved. "This season I really focussed on my personal goals, because with the numbers we have, it's hard to try and go anywhere as a team," said Austin.

Aside from the numbers being down, the girls and boys were able to pull together throughout the season and become closer. "The low number of girls allowed us to all become close as a team," said senior Vanessa Blankenship.

The girls track season was focused on doing their best not necessarily winning every meet. Before every meet the team would relax and agree that it isn't about winning or losing, it's about improving and doing our best. That is exactly what the girls team was able to do. The boys team, however, was not able to do as well the girls team and did post the greatest record.

"This season went better than expected and I was able to achieve top times all year." -Caitlin Brown, 11

The girls posted a record of ??? which was much better than what anyone had expected. However Austin felt that the team was not mentally ready for the conference meet. "We did not run as well as we should've and it was tough to see that," said Austin.

The Griffith track sectional was changed this year. Their sectional featured, Lake Central, Andean, Merrillville, Crown Point, Hanover and Lake Station. Although many athletes were able to post their best scores and best times, they were unable to move on past the sectional because of the stiff competition. However, junior Taylor Austin, and senior Troy Yarnelle were able to move on, in the 1 mile and the hurdles, respectively.

Austin and Yarnelle spent another week at work preparing themselves for the regional meet. Although Yarnelle did not do as well as he had anticipated and did not advance, Austin was still able to move on and compete in the state meet. She placed 24 out of 50 but is hoping to return next season and place a little higher.



# Softball

## Team

Merrillville  
 Chesterton  
 Boone Grove  
 Hobart  
 Highland  
 Andean  
 Hanover Central  
 Munster  
 South Bend Riley  
 South Bend Riley  
 Rensselaer Central  
 Lowell  
 Kankakee Valley  
 Bellmont  
 Adams Central  
 Hobart  
 Highland  
 Andean  
 Munster  
 Lowell  
 Kankakee Valley  
 Crown Point  
 Lake Central  
 Calumet  
 Wheeler  
**Sectionals**  
 Hammond High  
 Gary Roosevelt  
 Gavitt  
**Regionals**  
 Andean

## Score

6-1  
 6-3  
 4-2  
 5-2  
 11-7  
 7-0  
 9-5  
 11-5  
 5-0  
 9-1  
 12-0  
 1-0  
 3-1  
 11-2  
 14-3  
 4-2  
 3-2  
 3-0  
 13-2  
 5-3  
 4-0  
 3-1  
 5-0  
 1-0  
 1-0  
 13-3  
 3-0 (forfeit)  
 10-0  
 9-1



Row 1: Ezekiel Del Val, Jordan Baltus, Jamie Rex, Ed McLeod, Katie Gardner, Alexis Atkinson, Steve Moss  
 Row 2: Rhannon Cox, Sarah Galambos, Samantha Adams, Emilee Trueblood, Stephanie Brandner  
 Row 3: Enca Yost, Caylee Adams, Chelsea Shinkle, Sierra Gutierrez



Row 1: Sarah Gates, Taylor Dunagan, Don Bence, Taylor Streuch, Rhannon Kozay  
 Row 2: Oestiny Moore, Danielle Falkner, Kayla Scott, Toni Tralcoff, Kristen Drozd, Becky Schnoor  
 Row 3: Danielle Moore, Shania White, Courtney Bell, Sarah Dodson

On their way to the dug out from shaking hands with the Highland team, junior Sierra Gutierrez shares a joke with her fellow teammate junior Caylee Adams. "This softball season was different, but I still made the most of it," said Gutierrez.



During the 2012 season, the varsity softball team took a trip to Hartford City, Indiana, to compete in the Blackford Tournament. The tournament took place on April 24, 2012 and the varsity girls softball team played a total of two games. As a result of the team's hard work during practice, they won both games that they played at the tournament. The team won every game due to the ten run rule, which means the team was ahead by ten runs and the opposing team had no chance of winning. Fortunately, the game was on schedule and none of the girls got injured. However, there were bad calls and a difficult strike zone.

The Blackford Tournament was a great way to show the team's skills as well as a chance for the team to bond. Between games and while on the bus, the girls socialized with their fellow team members and became closer as a whole. "We were all really excited and happy to have won the tournament," said senior Rhannon Cox. This victory at Blackford was the first tournament win since 2009.



## Victory at Blackford

# Pitching a Plan

## Varsity Team Hits Out of the Park

Sectionals are a time of high stress and stepping up a team's game to be crowned Sectional Champions. This year, the softball team had the added pressure of being the favorite to win the Sectional. During the spring of 2011, the softball team switched from Sectional 18 to Sectional 17. This sectional contained all Hammond schools so many considered this Sectional to be much easier and that Griffith would dominate every team that they played.

The girls won their first game against Hammond High 13-3 in five innings due to the ten run rule. The second game was played against Gary Roosevelt and the Panthers did not even play one full inning. The Roosevelt Panthers had to forfeit after Griffith had already scored three runs and a shocking event occurred. Griffith's number five hitter, senior Stephanie Brandner, hit a line drive up the middle at the pitcher from Gary Roosevelt. The ball hit the girl in the forehead and Roosevelt had to forfeit due to the fact that they did not have another pitcher and the first pitcher had to leave in an ambulance. She suffered a concussion

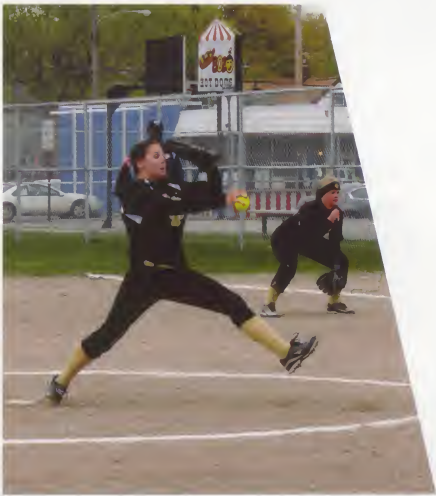
but she is fine.

The Sectional Championship game was the match up that the whole Sectional had been waiting for. Griffith played Gavit on Gavit's home field. The girls jumped on Gavit's pitcher in the first inning by scoring one run. The defense held the Gladiators off and the Panthers went on to score three runs in the second inning, two runs in the third, one run in the fourth, and three runs in the fifth. This made the score 10-0 in the fifth inning so the Lady Panthers were crowned Sectional Champions for the first time since 2007.

The way the Regional worked was that the winner of Sectional 17 would host the winner from Sectional 18. So the Griffith Panthers faced the Andean Fifty-Niners on their home turf. The Niners started the game off strong with a grand slam and the Panthers answered with one run in the first inning. That was the only run that the Panthers scored and the Niners went on to win Regionals 9-1.

Although the Panthers lost, the season was a successful one. They ended with a winning record of 15-13.

"Winning Sectionals was an amazing feeling and I'm proud of what we had accomplished. I wish we could have gone farther but we had an awesome season."  
-Sarah Galambos, 11



While playing Lake Central at the senior field, freshman Alexis Atkinson prepares to lead off in order to steal second base. "All of the dedication and hard work pays off in the end," said Atkinson.

Pitching at one of their home games, senior Rhiannon Cox struck out the opposing team. "This season was a great experience. I love playing softball and I'm going to miss my teammates," said Cox.

"When the going gets tough, shut up and get back to work."- Rebecca Schnoor. 9

# Baseball Team Score

Calumet	10-0
Morton	5-3
Portage	4-0
Merrillville	5-2
Valparaiso	4-3
Crown Point	4-2
Kankakee Valley	17-4
Andean	6-0
Mishawaka	7-6
South Bend Clay	10-0
Highland	5-2
Munster	4-2
Chesterton	3-0
Hobart	6-1
Lowell	5-4
Columbia City Lincoln	4-0
Taylor	4-2
Andean	10-0
Highland	9-5
Munster	14-7
Kankakee Valley	8-0
Whiting	3-2
East Chicago	14-1
Kouts	5-4
Hobart	4-2
Lowell	5-3
Washington Twp.	5-3
Gavitt	11-1
Bishop Noll	7-5
Gavitt (sect.)	23-0
Hammond Clark (sect.)	4-0
Andean (reg.)	6-5
Western (reg.)	4-1



Row 1: Brandon Garcia, Brett Brinkley, Jesse Smith, Matthew Colomes, Zach Muller, Joey Rivera  
Row 2: Garrett Litke, Josh Chailoux, Kyle Buikema, Jeremy Camp, Anthony Carter, Jordan Long, Tyler Lipski



Row 1: Michael Darrough, Robert Hernandez, Matthew Potacki, Matthew Miller, Ryan Zukin  
Row 2: Aaron Brown, Andrew Felds, Tristan Robertson, Tristin Olsen, Christian Adams, Ryan Nunez  
Row 3: Brian Smith, Brandon Gale, Cameron Kiegebein, Michael Lonzo, Seth Shepard

After taking a pitch for a strike, sophomore Kyle Buikema prepares himself for the next pitch. "I get relieved when the pitch is a ball, but I try to just focus on the next one and make sure I get a good hit," said Buikema.

## Being a Leader

A captain for any sport, especially baseball, must be patient, hard-working, supportive and be able to set a positive role model for their team. Senior Garrett Litke was chosen for this year's 2012 baseball captain.

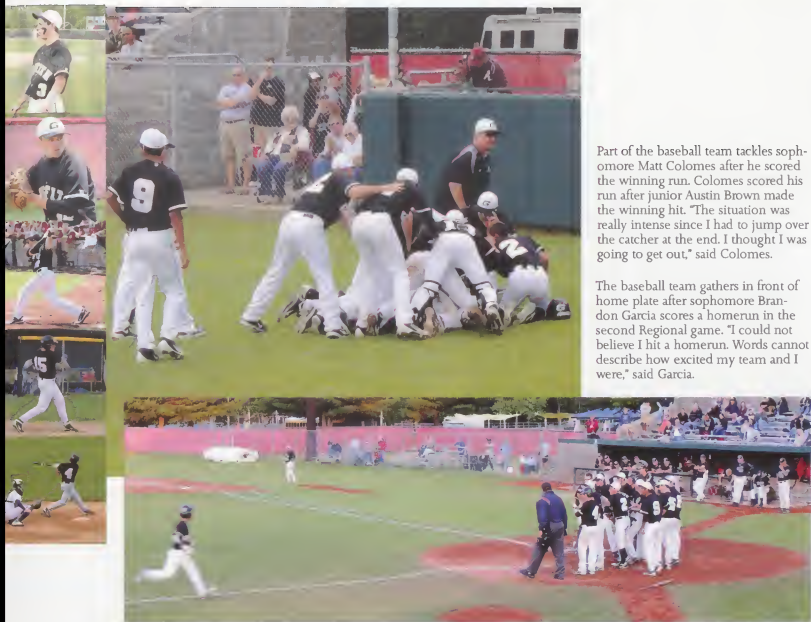
"Being captain is something that most people take for granted. It is a privilege to me, and I love my team. I have great teammates who support everything I do and respect everything I say," said Litke.

Besides being captain, Garrett plays short-stop and pitches also. Litke is also a part of the tennis team and basketball team, where he received head captain and MVP. Litke was also awarded with "Male Athlete of the Year" at this year's Recognition Night. Litke has grown as a person and as a player throughout his four years of high school. "I have lived for baseball since I was two years old and to be able to wake up everyday and know I get to play again is an amazing feeling. I play every game like it's my last because I know it will be someday" said Litke.

Litke is planning to attend Purdue Calumet University to major in Pre-Law. "As soon as I step on that field, nothing else matters, and for two or so hours I can do what I love and forget the world. It's been a great four years of baseball and I appreciate everything and everyone" said Litke.







Part of the baseball team tackles sophomore Matt Colomes after he scored the winning run. Colomes scored his run after junior Austin Brown made the winning hit. "The situation was really intense since I had to jump over the catcher at the end. I thought I was going to get out," said Colomes.

The baseball team gathers in front of home plate after sophomore Brandon Garcia scores a homerun in the second Regional game. "I could not believe I hit a homerun. Words cannot describe how excited my team and I were," said Garcia.

# Steppin' up to the Plate

## Winning Sectionals

The boys' baseball team began their season with many difficulties. Between losing games, injuries, and bad attitudes, some of their players started to fall into a slump. The boys began to recover from their rough beginning of the season. After a boost of morale, they were faced with their next challenge: Sectionals. The games were to be played at Clark High School. In order to win Sectionals, the boys had to beat Gavitt High School and Clark High School.

The first game started at noon on Saturday, May 27. Junior Anthony Carter started the game off on a positive note when he struck out every player by the third inning.

"I was really nervous to pitch, but I just tried to stay positive. I knew my team was depending on me, but I could not let them down. I did not want to be the reason for losing Sectionals," said Carter.

By the end of the fifth inning, Griffith had the winning score of 23-0. The boys were crowned victors of the first game. A few hours later, the boys played the second game for the Sectional Championship title.

"We knew what we had to do. We all got a lot of rest and ate lunch so

we would be prepared for the game. We were not leaving Clark without a trophy in our hands," said Matt Colomes, 10.

**"Winning the first game of Regionals was the highlight of the season," - Zach Muller, 12**

Junior Jesse Smith pitched the second game. Smith struck out fourteen batters throughout the game. His successful skills boosted the players' confidence to win the game, and come home with a title. The boys ended with a score of 4-0. This was the first Sectional title since 2007. Next challenge: Regionals against Andean High School.

The regional game took place at Centennial Park in Plymouth. Junior Jesse Smith pitched the first five innings. By the end of the first inning, Andean scored three runs on the Panthers. The boys rallied back at the 59ers. The ending score was 6-5. Throughout the doubt, the players beat the #2 ranked team in the State, Andean. Griffith had to play again at 7 pm under the lights against the Western Panthers. Western rose over Griffith in the first inning with back-to-back homeruns. The ending score was 4-1.

All in all, the boys played a great season and made many accomplishments.

"I was so sad for this season to end." - Zach Muller

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# Changing through the years

-Alex Mendoza, 12

Maturing, changing appearances, gaining more friends, and learning life lessons are all a part of the high school experience. When students look back on their parents' yearbooks, they often find themselves laughing at the ridiculous trends and styles from back in the day. Some trends from 2011-2012 are holes in jeans, sweater boots, cropped top shirts and sweatshirts, long necklaces, and Affliction shirts. One day, we may look back at our own yearbooks and laugh at our ridiculous combinations of mini skirts and 'Ugg boots, along with boys' sagging jeans and V-neck shirts.

Relationships are another aspect of high school that continually changes. Best friends become enemies, boyfriends and girlfriends become strangers, and the quiet kids who sat in the back of the room for three years become friends. "High school is a big change because you don't talk to all of the people you thought you'd be friends with until high school is over," said freshman Tori Traicoff.

Teacher relationships also change. While a favorite teacher freshman year may have helped get students passing grades, a favorite teacher senior year may become a mentor and help make difficult college decisions. Getting through these everyday changes are all a part of growing up, becoming independent, and learning when it's time to move forward.

As students grow from freshmen to senior year, many of the issues that are worried about change as

well. As a freshman, many students worry about fitting in, finding a new group of friends, and finding new clubs and sports to join. "As a freshman, I was really worried about finding friends and fitting in because I was new to Griffith," said junior Angel James.

During sophomore and junior year, students worry most about keeping exemplar grades for college transcripts, researching future professions, and making varsity sports.

Most seniors this year, however, faced a time in which they must worry about very pressing and quickly approaching issues. Still hoping to find time for old friends during their last year in high school, many seniors find themselves extremely busy with college applications, scholarship applications, various interviews and time to sit back and reflect on the very big decisions ahead of them.

Many students would argue that despite how pressing seven hours per day of school is, it is nearly just as important to find time to relax and hang out. There is one thing that does not change throughout the years of high school: the constant need to have a good time in spare time. This year, there were many opportunities for enjoyment. Various students took the train to Millennium Park on weekends, to walk under the Bean or ice skate on the winter rink. Griffith saw very little snow this winter, but students were eager to find time to sled and build snowmen after the few snowfalls. Many GHS students used their free time by going on walks around town and riding bikes. The trend of driving around aimlessly with friends seemed to diminish this year, as gas prices reached nearly \$4.00 at times! "During the winter, all of the kids in my neighborhood tie sleds to the back of four-wheelers and sled down the streets," said freshman Christy Slagle.

With students ranging in ages from 14-19 in one school, it is easy to feel lost in the crowd. However, high school is not about being afraid to fit in; it's about figuring out where you belong. Here at GHS, being a very diverse student body in many aspects, there is a place for everyone. Students have come to realize that every change is worth it, because it leads each of us to become the person we are.





Brenda Bonewits  
Teresa Carstensen  
Christine Chidichimo  
Deb Chmiel  
Sarah Cohen



Eddie Covarrubias  
James Ford  
Justin Fronek  
Jason Gast  
Peter Ghrist



Ray Gonzalez  
Jim Graff  
Lorraine Hageman  
Cindy Jursic  
Debbie Korak



Lisa Megquier  
Keith Mitchell  
Nanette Naranjo  
Brian Orkis  
Luann Pramuk



Russ Radtke  
Juanita Raybourne  
Pat Sadler  
Dan Santori  
Shannon Scheidel



Justin Schroeder  
Jody Tibbs  
Mary Anne Tigner  
Sheila Vaclavik  
Janete Vehrs



*"I teach because I like helping kids and want to make a difference in their lives." -Jeanette Vehrs, English*



Stephanie Villarreal  
Julie Wencloff  
Chris Wroblewski



While checking books back in to the library, Chris Wroblewski checks for late fees and organizes the books. "I have to check and make sure no one has any late fees that may eventually go on their obligations," said Wroblewski.



Explaining a problem, Sarah Cohen, math, helps sophomore Dana Lesniewski understand a proportion problem. "Ms. Cohen is a really good teacher because she helps me all the time whenever I need her," said Lesniewski.



Tom Golanbeck-Goldman

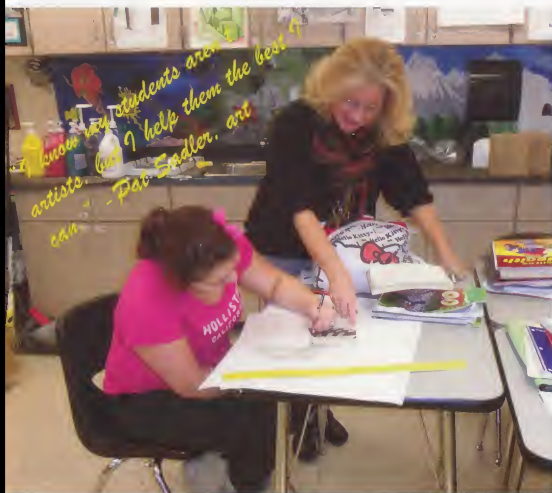


Jenn Kecon, Nurse



Jim Galt, Art

Lecturing about the Civil War, Luann Pramuk, history, shows a slavery power-point to her AP US History class. "I use Powerpoints to help the students understand the material better and to keep their attention spans up," said Pramuk.



*Under my students are artists. but I help them the best I can. - Per Sadler, art*



## Faculty

"Even though some students think math is challenging, I try to help them ease through it," said Christine Chidichimo, math **131**

*"This year flew by! Knowing that it is about to end is kind of bittersweet." -Alyssa Nicwladomski, 12*

During Christmas time, the GHS chorale sang for a half hour at Wicker Park. "Christmas songs are the best music, but the songs always get stuck in my head," said senior Joe Vaclavik.



**Samantha Aguilar**  
Cross Country 9, 10, 11, 12 (Captain 12) Track 9, 11, 12 Colorguard 10, 11 DECA 11, 12 (Two Time State Qualifier, Second at State in Marketing Convention) Swimming 9 International Club 9

**Brittany Anderson**  
Choir 9, 10, 11, 12 (Chorale 12) Class Council 12

**Josh Ashenbaugh**  
Amber Atkins  
Tennis 10, 11, 12 PCOLA 9, 10, 11, 12 (Vice President 11, President 12)



**Erik Augustyn**  
Ryan Avalos  
Track 9 Soccer 9, 10, 11, 12 (Captain 11)

**Mallory Baccino**  
Pantherettes 9, 10, 11, 12 (Captain 12) Class Council 11, 12 Student Council 11, 12 (Secretary 12) Booster Club 9, 10, 11, 12 NHS 11, 12

**Caitlin Bailey**



**Nathan Bailey**  
Band-Marching, Pep and Concert 9, 10, 11 Cross Country 9, 10 Track 9, 10, 11, 12 Hammond Area Career Center Auto Tech 11, 12 (Student Council Advisory) Talent Show 10, 11 (Pine Place All The Way Drummer 12)

**Amanda Bakko**  
Class Council 11, 12 Choir 9 Boys Basketball Manager 9, 10, 11

**Jordanne Banas**  
International Club 11

**Robert Beach**



**Brianna Bias**  
Soccer 9, 10, 11, 12 (Captain 12) Basketball 9, 10, 11, 12 (Captain 12) Track 9, 10, 11, 12 (Captain 12) Soccer Club 9, 10, 11, 12

**Ryan Biegel**

**Vanessa Blankenship**  
Basketball 10, 11, 12 Track 9, 10, 12 (Captain 12) Soccer Club 9 International Club 11 Boys' Tech Manager 11

**Lisa Blaski**



**Ryan Bluhm**  
Football 9 Wrestling 10, 11

**Joshua Bodnar**  
Football 9, 10, 11, 12 Drama 10, 11, 12

**Kelsey Bonewits**

Volleyball 9, 10, 11, 12 (Captain 11, 12) Basketball 9, 10, 11 (Captain 11) Soccer Club 9, 10, 11, 12 (Captain 11) Choir 9, 10, 11, 12 (Chorale 12)



Alice Dabson & Amelia Morales



Sarah Clark



Robert Beach





After glazing his pot, senior Garrett Walter tries to decide what to do next. "My favorite part about ceramics is finding out how my glaze turns out," said Walter.

Demonstrating a reflex lab in psychology class, seniors Chloe Oliver and David Stokes test the knee-jerk reflex. "Pop tasting was my favorite experiment because it was interesting to find out if I secretly liked Coke or Pepsi better," said Oliver.



## Rhiannon Cox

*I have pitched for 4 different travel softball teams*

*Wednesday and Friday are my favorite days of the week*

*Strawberries are my favorite fruit*

*I have a tattoo for my grandma*



While snacking during her aide hour, senior Rachel Solar kicks back and relaxes. "I usually help grade papers and run errands for Ms. Schiedel's class," said Solar.



*My senior year flew by and I'm so glad to have met everyone," said Amber Atkins. 12*

**Stephanie Brandner**  
Sofball 9, 10, 11, 12 (Captain 11, 12) NHS 10, 12  
Class Council 9, 10, 11, 12 Student Council 9, 12  
Reflexor Ball 9, 10, 11, 12 Editor-in-Chief 12 Boys  
Basketball Manager 9, 10, 11, 12 Choir 9, 10, 11, 12

**Brooke Brinkley**  
Basketball 9, 10, 11, 12 (Captain 11, 12) Booster Club  
9, 10, 11, 12 Class Council 9, 10, 11, 12 Students  
Council 10, 11, 12 NHS 11, 12 Turnabout Court Prom  
Court Homecoming Court

**Nicholas Brummet**  
**Tiffany Burbridge**  
**Melinda Burk**

**Josilyn Byers**  
Yearbook 12 Pantherette Manager 12

**Jeremy Camp**  
Baseball 9, 10, 11, 12 Football 9

**Alyssa Carter**  
**Margaret Cartwright**  
Bowling 9, 10, 11, 12 Bowling Club 12

**Sarah Clark**  
Pantherettes 9, 10, 11, 12 (Captain 12) Booster Club  
9, 10, 11, 12 Class Council 9, 10, 11, 12 Student  
Council 10, 12 NHS 11, 12 Science Olympiad 11

**Brandon Cole**  
**Rhannon Cox**  
Sofball 9, 10, 11, 12

**Ellison Cullen**  
Cheerleading 9, 10, 11, 12 (Captain 12) Yearbook  
9, 10, 11, 12 Student Council 9, 10, 11, 12 (Officer  
12) Booster Club 9, 10, 11, 12 Class Council 9, 10,  
11, 12 PCCCLA 9, 10

**Alyssa Delgado**  
**Nicole Dittrich**



A few of the Pantherettes gather together to cheer on the girls at their sectional championship game. This game was my favorite because all the students were there super fanning and cheering on the girls that night," said senior Mallory Baccino.

At coffee night this year, senior Joey Vavlik sang and played "Norwegian Wood" by The Beatles.

This was his first coffee night performance. "It's a great place to go hang out with friends and listen to student musicians," said Vavlik.

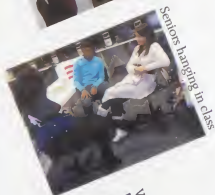


# Amanda Falcon

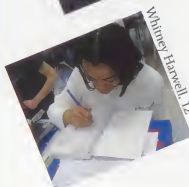
Longboarding combines snowboarding, skate boarding, and surfing all together. The longboarding board is basically a long skate board. Usually snow boarders do longboarding during their off season to keep in shape. "The most embarrassing moment for me was the day I went long boarding with my friend Billy. We were just longboarding around town having a good time, until I went to turn the corner as a car was pulling up to the stop sign and I fell. I have fallen many of times before, but this was the worst, because a random guy saw me. And as I was getting up, all I heard was Billy and the guy in the car laughing at me, because I was not mad at all for them laughing at me, because it was really funny and if I were them I would have laughed too. It was just really embarrassing," said Falcon.



GHS Chorus



Seniors hanging in class



Whitney Maxwell 12



Benjamin Domanski

Alice Duhan

Drama 9, 10, 11, 12 Senior Director 12) Dance Captain 10, 11 Set Crew 10, 11 Hair and Make up 9 Choir 9, 10, 11, 12 Chorus 12) NHS 10, 11, 12 International Club 9, 10, 11, 12 OCEA 12

Kylah Eatman

Cheerleading 9, 10, 11, 12 Booster Club 9, 10, 11, 12 Class Council 9, 10, 11, 12 Student Council 9

Jamesa Estell

RCLA 12

Amanda Falcon

Career Band 9, 10, 11 Pep Band 9, 10, 11 Marching Band 10, 11 Color Guard 10, 11

Shi Fassoth

Soccer 9, 10, 11 (Captain 10) Track 11, 12 Choir 9, 10, 11, 12 Wrestling 10 Student Council 9 Drama 12

Cole Felde

Football 9 Baseball 9 Student Council 11 Junior Class Council 11 Prom Court Homecoming Court Girls Practice Squad 12

Edward Fitzgerald

Robert Fleishman Baseball 9, 10, 11 (Captain 12) Construction Skills USA Team works 11, 12 Turnabout Court (Pronce) Prom Court

Rachelle Fogarty

Austin Foster

Football 9, 12 Basketball 9, 10, 11 Baseball 9 Turnabout Court Prom Court

Shawn Gallina

Rachel Garastik

Treasurer 10, 11, 12 (Mama Hen 12) NHS 10, 11, 12 (President 12) Swimming 9, 10, 11 (Captain 11) International Club 9, 10, 11, 12 Class Council 9, 10, 11, 12 Student Council 11, 12

Olivia Gates

Jillian Gautreaux





*"I'll never forget the people I met, how much we laughed, and all of our inside jokes" -Vanessa Blankenship, 12*



Many high school students go to sporting events, such as basketball games, to support their team. "I like going to the games because it allows me to have more time to hang out with my friends," said senior Tyler Barron with seniors Riley Henderson and Anton Calvert.

To celebrate Mexico's Independence Day, the Spanish IV AP class brought in food and had a party of their own. "I helped my mom make chipotle meatballs for the class," said senior Ana Solis.



# CLASS OF 2012



**Jimmy Gaydos**  
**Lucas Glass**  
**Adriana Gonzalez**  
**Kyle Gora**  
**Ryan Graan**  
 Drama Club 9, 10, 11, 12 Bowling Club 9, 10, 11, 12 Art Club 12 Set Crew 9, 10, 11, 12

**Sarah Guistoli**  
 Panhellenies 9, 10, 11, 12 Captain 12 Ensemble 11, 12 Reflector 10, 11, 12 Editor 12 NHS 11, 12 Secretary 12 Student Council 9, 10, 11, 12 Class Council 9, 10, 11, 12 President 10, 11, 12 Broomer Club 9, 10, 11, 12

**Stacie Hansen**  
 Student Council 9, 10, 11, 12 Class Council 9, 10, 11, 12 PCJA 9, 10, 12 NHS 11, 12 International Club 10, 11, 12 Volleyball 9, 10, 11, 12

**Clarissa Hardy**  
**Courtney Hargis**  
 Student Council 9 Bowling 9, 10, 11, 12 Captain 12 Broomer Club 10, 11

**Whitney Harwell**  
**Riley Henderson**  
**Rhannon Hilliard**  
**Raleigh Hinkle**  
**Donald Hoover**  
 Tennis 10, 11 CJA 9, 10, 11, 12 Turnabout Court Homecoming Court

**Tina Horton**

**Breona Huff**  
**Michael Kent**  
 Band 9, 10, 11, 12 Boy Scouts of America 9, 10, 11, 12 DECA 12 GHS 12

**Joel Kepchar**  
**Elizabeth Kras**  
 Bowling Team 9, 10, 11, 12 Captain 11, 12 Bowling Club 9, 10, 11, 12 Drama 9, 10 International Club 9, 10 NHS 11, 12 The Edge 10, 12

**Nicholas Kudryba**  
 Boys Soccer 9, 10, 11, 12 Captain 11, 12 Boys Swimming 9, 10, 11, 12 Choir 9, 10, 11



Before school, senior Morgan Dillion tries to squeeze her cheerleading bag and books into her locker. "No matter how many times you try, your athletic bag will never fit in Griffith's tiny lockers," said Dillion.



Signing a letter of intent, senior Kelsey Bonewits makes her final decision by choosing to go to college at Wayne State. "I'm looking forward to continuing my volleyball career during college," said Bonewits.

*"Senior year is what I used to dream for, but now that I've reached it, it makes me sad it's over." - Cristina Aldape, 12*

**Lisa Korpela**

Soccer 9, 10 Reflector 11, 12 Booster Club 9, 10  
JCCLA 9

**Jennifer Lanfear**

Cheerleading 9, 10, 11, 12 Captain 11, 12 Booster  
Club 9, 10, 11, 12 Class Council 10, 11, 12 Choir 9,  
10, 11, 12

**Kelly Lannin**

**Kalie Lastagarkov**

Soccer 9, 10, 11, 12 Captain 11 Swimming 9, 10,  
11, 12 (Captain 11) Choir 9, 10, 11, 12 Band/  
Marching 9

**Cali Lemus**

Bowling 9, 10, 11, 12 The Edge Magazine Editor 12

**Megan Lesniewski**

Volleyball 9 Booster Club 9, 10, 11, 12 Class Council  
9, 10, 11, 12 Student Council 12 PCCLA 10, 11

**Michelle Lesniewski**

Volleyball 9, 10, 11, 12 Student Council 11, 12  
President 12 Class Council 9, 10, 11, 12 Vice  
President 12 National Honor Society 11, 12 Booster  
Club 9, 10, 11, 12 PCCLA 9, 10, 11, 12

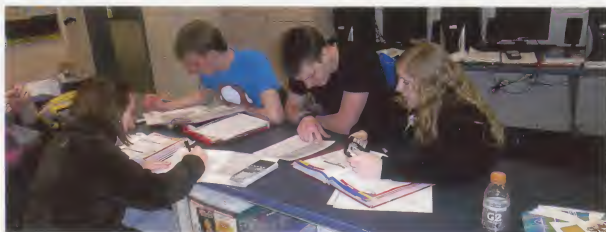
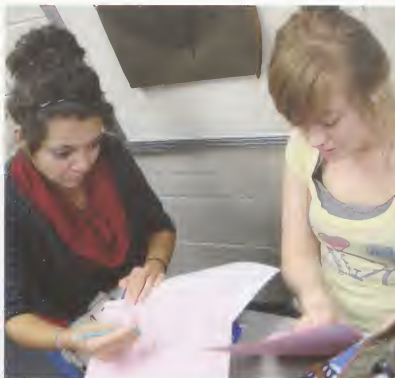
**Garrett Lilke**

Baseball 9, 10, 11, 12 (Captain 11, 12) Basketball 9, 10,  
11, 12 (Captain 12) Tennis 9, 10, 11, 12 (Captain 10,  
11, 12) Turnabout Court Prom Court Homecoming  
Court

**Tori Louviere**

**Avery Malerich**

Drama 10, 11, 12 (Therapist 10, 11, 12) Directed/wrote  
9 act play 12 Acted in All-state show 11, 12 Choir  
11, 12 Outstanding choir member 11 Mascot 11  
Newspaper 12



While typing on the keyboard, senior Jerry Nowak works on some homework. "My favorite class is stats and discreet because it's easier than pre-cal and it's easier to understand a different form of math," said Nowak.

Asking for help on a problem from senior Ted Fitzgerald, senior Amy Russell tries to get the answer correct. "I love my accounting class, but it's a lot of memorization and a lot of steps to remember," said Russell.





Andre Windmon



Shi Basoth & Kobbie McGeister



Steven Malone

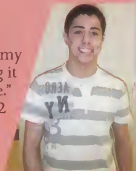
Working as partners, senior Katalina Villalpando and senior Aisha Darrough work together on their work. "My hardest class is discreet because I do the most work and it's challenging," said Darrough.

## What was your New Year's Resolution?



"My New Year's Resolution was to stop cussing. It didn't even last more than an hour. Yeah, that was a stupid idea."  
-Brianna Bias, 12

"I decided to stop drinking pop for my New Year's Resolution. I'm still doing it because pop is really bad for me."  
-Zach Muller, 12



"My New Year's Resolution was to eat healthy and it's still going on. I still haven't eaten fast food."  
-Alyssa Carter, 12



**Steven Malone**  
SADD, 10, 11, 12 (President 12) Dungeona and Dragons 10 Math Bowl 11, 12 National Honor Society 12 Stage Crew 11, 12 Honors Boys State representative



**Haley Marshall**  
Football Manager 9, 10 Booster Club 11, 12 PCLTA 12



**Natasha Martin**  
Leslie Martinez



**Nicholas Mazur**  
Brittini McLeMore  
Track and Field 9, 10, 11, 12 (Captain 11, 12) Band/Colorguard 10, 11 (Division 1 Gold Rating) DECA 11, 12 State Qualifier 11, 12 Golf 12 Booster Club 9, 10, 11, 12 PCLTA 9, 10, 11, 12 SADD, 10, 11, 12 International Club 11, 12



**Nathan McNeill**  
Robert Megquier



**Alysia Metsch**  
Booster Club 9, 10, 11 Choir 9, 10, 11, 12 (Choirle 12)  
Dillon Metsch



*"High School is finally done, and it took forever, but now I'm free at last!" said Thomas McCoy, 12.*

## What's in Our Future?



Senior Gianni Rivera's overall high school experience was amazing, but now that it is time for her to graduate, she is ready to leave. After high school, Rivera plans to attend college. The college she is looking at is Indiana University Northwest. There, she plans on entering the medical field and becoming an ultrasound technician. "I get to be the person that shows mothers how their baby is doing and progressing. Being an ultrasound technician is something that interests me because it seems like a job that is happy and fun," said Rivera. Rivera is committed to the challenge that awaits her in college, and she is sure that she can accomplish her goals.



Senior Cody LeJeune has had his fair share of high school experiences. Even though high school was something he never really enjoyed, he still admits that he will miss it. In the end, though, he is excited to get out of GHS. Once LeJeune has graduated, he plans to attend college to pursue his career as a nurse. "Nursing is a career that seems right for me because I enjoy helping people out and caring for those that need the support. I'm also a people person, which seems to be an important factor of becoming a nurse because you're going to be working with people a lot," said LeJeune. LeJeune plans on attending Ivy Tech to achieve his goal.



Alex Mendoza



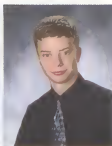
Garrett Walker



Mallory Baccino

Seniors Eric Navarro and Jenny Lanfear lean back and watch as the nurse sets them up to donate their blood. "I gave blood because it saves lives, and I love helping people," said Navarro.

# CLASS OF 2012



**Marris Mihalcik**  
Pander Post 10, 11, 12 Softball 10, 11  
**Melissa Miller**  
Basketball 9, 10 Volleyball 9, 10, 11, 12 Booster Club 9, 10, 11, 12  
**Amelia Morales**  
Choir 9, 10, 11, 12 Drama 11, 12 Volleyball 9, 10 Track and Field 9  
**Jonathon Morikis**  
Football 9, Swimming 10  
**Tyler Morrison**  
Boys Golf 10, 11



**Zach Muller**  
Basketball 9, 10, 11, 12 Basketball 9 Wrestling 10, 11, 12 (Captain 12)  
**Marissa Mureiko**  
**Brianna Nagel**  
**Mark Nefelman**  
**Brianna Nelson**



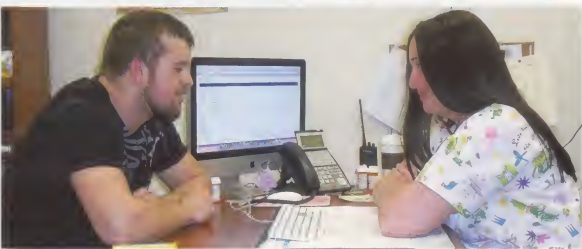
**Alyssa Niewiadomski**  
Prep Marching Concert Band 9, 10, 11, 12 Section Leader 12 NHS 11, 12 Academic Super Bowl 10, 11, 12 DECA 12  
**Ashley Noojin**  
**Jerry Nowak**  
**Andrew O'Brien**  
Basketball 9, 10, 11 Basketball 9, 10 Girls Basketball Practice Team 12, Turnabout Court  
**Agnes O'Brien**



**Chloe Oliver**  
Choir 9, 10, 11 Art Club 9, 10 Youth Alive Bible Study 11, 12 (Leader)  
**Lesley Pietsch**  
**Steven Ramirez**  
**Nikki Rapka**  
**Benjamin Reitz**



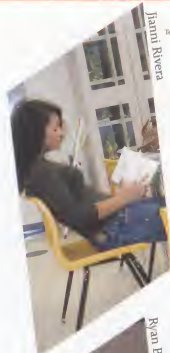
**Billie Reitz**  
**Gianni Rivera**  
Volleyball 9, 10 Class Counselor 9, 10, 11, 12 Booster Club 9, 10 Choir 9  
**Katelyn Roberts**  
**Alyssa Robertson**  
Cross Country 12  
**Catena Root**



Senior Maciej Szczepkowski enjoys his aide hour with the nurse, Jen Kocon. "The best part of aiding for the nurse is getting free band-aids whenever I want," said Szczepkowski.



*"I'll never forget all of the wonderful times I've had at JHS." -Zach Muller, 12*



Janni Rivera

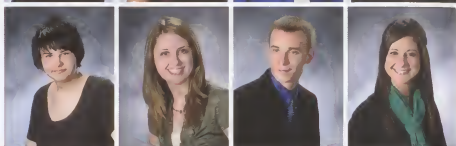
**Gregory Rothchild**  
Tennis 9, 10, 11 Student Council 9, 10, 11, 12 (Historian)  
11, 12 Punisher Council 9, 10 NHS 11, 12 Class  
Council 11 Choir 9, 10  
**Amy Russell**  
Soccer 9, 10, 11, 12 (Captain) 12 Class Council 9  
10, 11, 12 (Vice President) 10, 11 NHS 11, 12 (Vice  
President) 12 Softball 9  
**Hope Ryan**  
Basketball 9 Softball 9, 11 Choir 9, 10, 11  
**Janessa Salinas**  
S.A.D.D 9, 10 Basketball 9, 10, 11 Track and Field 9,  
10, 11, 12

**Esperanza Sanchez**  
**Tiffany Sanders**  
**Jacob Schnoor**  
**Sydney Segovia**



**Sarah Shaffer**  
**Holly Shew**  
**Andrew Short**  
**Shae Siokos**

Track 9, 10, 11 (Captain) 11 Cross Country 9 Student  
Council 11 International Club 9, 10 Homecoming  
Court Booster Club 11 PCCLA 10



**Rachel Solar**  
**Victoria Solivas**  
Pantherettes 10, 11, 12 Student Council 12 Class  
Council 9, 10, 11, 12 PCCLA 9, 10, 11, 12 Booster  
Club 10, 11, 12 Volleyball 9 NHS 11, 12  
**Jeremy Soy**  
**Nicholas Stassin**



**Taylor Steffan**  
Soccer 9, 10, 11, 12 Track 11, 12 (Captain) 11  
Tomb Raider Court Prom Court Homecoming Court  
(Homecoming Queen) Choir 9, 10, 11, 12

**Robert Stevens**  
Colorguard 10 Yearbook 11  
**David Stokes**  
**Ariana Suarez**  
Track 9, 10, 11 (Captain) 11 Wrestling Manager 10, 11



**Sarah Sutherland**  
**Robert Szabo**  
**Janessa Tamez**  
**Jennifer Teasdale**



Ryan Bluhm



Ryan Zuback

# CLASS OF 2012



**Alejandra Tellez**  
**Emilee Trueblood**  
 Pantheones 11, 12 Booster Club 10, 11, 12 Softball  
 10, 11, 12 Class Council 11, 12 (Treasurer) Student  
 Council 11, 12 Prom Court (Prom Queen)  
 Homecoming Court 12 Choir 9, 10, 11, 12

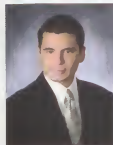
**Justin Turner**

**Megan Tuttle**

Volleyball 9, 10, 11, 12 (Captain 10, 12) NHS 11, 12  
 Student Council 12 Volleyball Coach 11, 12 Tutoring  
 9, 10, 11, 12 Work 10, 11, 12

**Joseph Vacilavik**

Soccer 9, 10, 11, 12 (Captain 12) Diving 9, 10, 11  
 Choir 9, 10, 11, 12 NHS 11, 12 Class Council 11



**Miguel Angel Valtierra**  
**Crystal Vanwhite**  
 Cheerleading 9, 10, 11, 12 Booster Club 9, 10, 11, 12  
**Katalina Villalpando**  
**Hanna Vrabely**  
 Pantheones 9, 10, 11, 12 Squad leader 10 Captain  
 12) NHS 11, 12 Student Council 10, 11, 12 (Secretary  
 11 Vice President 12) Class Council 9, 10, 11, 12  
 Secretary 11) Booster Club 9, 10, 11, 12 Choir 9, 10,  
 11, 12 Softball 9

**Garrett Waller**



**Morgan White**  
**Emily Witvoet**  
 Basketball 9, 10, 11, 12 Cheerleading 9, 10, 11, 12  
 (Captain 12) PCLLA 9, 10, 11, 12 (Photographer &  
 Editor 9, 10 President 12) International Club 9, 10,  
 11, 12 S.A.D.D 10, 11, 12 (Officer 12) Booster Club  
 9, 10, 11, 12

**Nicole Witzke**

**Troy Yarnelle**

Football 9, 10, 11, 12 (Captain 12) Track 9, 10, 11, 12  
 Class 9, 10, 11, 12 Basketball 9

**Tyler Yost**

Football 9, 10, 11, 12 (Captain 11, 12) Wrestling 10, 11,  
 12 (Captain 12) Prom Court (Prom King)



**Jordan Zarndt**  
 Varsity Football Manager 9, 10, 11, 12 Choir 9, 10,  
 11, 12

**Jessica Zubik**

**Ryan Zubrick**

Cross Country 9, 10, 11, 12 (Captain 11, 12) Track &  
 Field 9, 10, 11, 12 Panther Prom 9, 10, 11, 12 Wrestling  
 9 Set Crew 10, 11, 12 Class Council 11



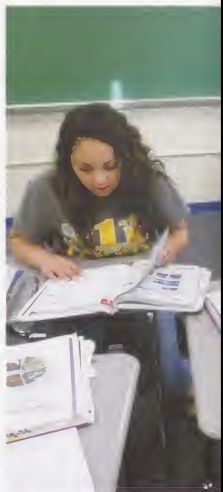
Enjoying a salad and a sandwich, seniors Zach Muller and Shae Sikos gossip about the latest news around school. "Shae is one of my best friends, and I can tell her everything," said Muller, 12.



*"Superfanning gets the buses jacked to win and brings the students together." -Caiti Fields, 12*



In the library junior Michelle Torres is working hard to finish her pre-calculus homework during her lunch hour so that she will not have work to do when she gets home. "Hard work pays off in the end," said Torres.



During his sixth hour English class, junior Aaron Martinez ate a cookie while working on one of his assignments, but unfortunately got in trouble. "That's the way the cookie crumbles!" said Martinez.

Alisondra Acevedo  
Caylee Adams  
Samantha Adams  
Jesus Alcázar  
Bri-Anne Andriessen

Christy Anzur  
Joseph Armstrong  
Taylor Austin  
Khristian Ayala  
Taylor Backe

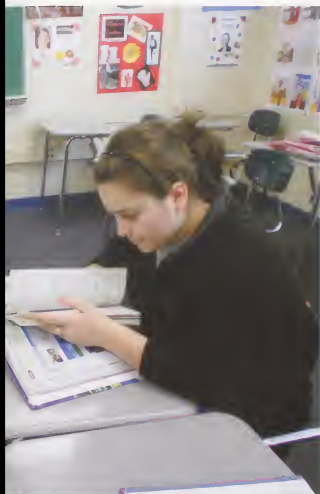
Victoria Bacon  
Destiny Barajas  
Tanner Barham  
Deanna Bartoszek  
Jevon Bell



*"I enjoy the fact that we've already picked our classes and we only have one more year left!" said Jackie Martinez, 11*



While in Spanish class, junior Cassandra Lopez and her fellow classmate junior Michelle Urena were working together to finish one of their assignments. "I enjoy having class with Michelle she's a great help," said Lopez



# Brandon Martin

**Love:**

Music

**Hate:**

Drama



*He loves to listen and play music because Martin feels in control when he plays the drums. Brandon has been playing the drums since he was eight years old and dedicates most of his time to listening and playing music.*

*Brandon believes that drama isn't necessary and people should stop spreading rumors because it gets you no where in life. Also that its unimportant and shows just how immature everyone is.*

*"I love music,  
its my way of  
relieving stress  
and just relaxing"*



Christopher Benko  
Emma Blackard  
William Bogan  
Patrick Bolda  
Katie Bridges

Brett Brinkley  
Austin Brown  
Caitlin Brown  
Brandon Brummet  
Kortland Bryant

Adam Buonomo  
Ryan Camp  
Julian Cartagena  
Anthony Carter  
Manon Carter



"Being in AP classes involves a lot of homework and studying. So in an effort to decrease the amount of work that I have to take home, I tend to spend my lunch periods in Mr. Graff's photography room," said junior Stefanie Soy.

## CLASS OF 2013

Robert Cheek  
Gabriel Cherry  
Caitlin Christenson  
Miryea Cisneros  
Ailey Clark



Cakirra Coleman  
Miles Collins  
Armando Cordova  
Brian Corrie  
Evelyn Creech



Mia DalSanto  
Jose Davila  
Jacob Dennison  
Aminata Diallo  
Alexander Diaz



Stephanie DiSanto  
Sean Downs  
Kaillie Drummond  
Stephen Duhon  
Cory Dunagan



Thomas Duncan  
Juliana Duvnjak  
Kimberly Dye  
Ann Ficht  
Andrew Figueroa



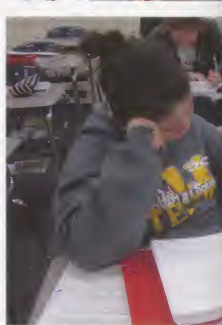
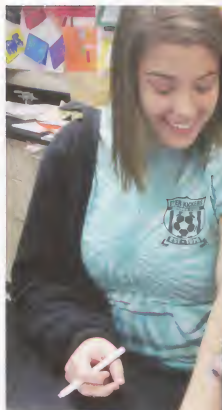
Andrew Fowler  
Sarah Galambos  
Brandon Gale  
Kaitlynd Gardner  
Ashlan Gary



Blaire Gearhart  
Alyssa Gebo  
Maegan Glass  
Joseph Golub  
Lauren Gonzales



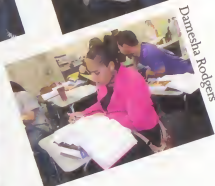
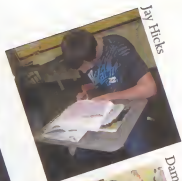
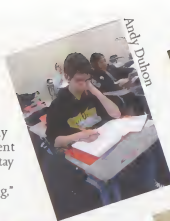
Jordan Gonzalez  
Zachary Grin  
Irene Gutierrez  
Sierra Gutierrez  
Vivian Haddad



*"This year has been one of the best years of my life." -Anthony Carter, 11*



As juniors Abbey Little and Emily Kuzmanoff conduct an experiment during Biology II, Little tries to stay focused. "She couldn't keep her hand still, because I kept laughing," said Kuzmanoff. The two were conducting a neuron test.



Eating his lunch, junior Jesus Aldape also enjoys talking to his friends. "Lunch is a great time to eat and talk to your friends about your day," said Aldape. Aldape regularly sits with his friends.



Trying to stay awake during the SAT class, junior Destiny Barajas learns about techniques to use. "You do not necessarily learn new things, but you touch up previously learned skills," said Barajas. The SAT class was every Wednesday night from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

## Jose Rivera



"I always play the piano before my choir class in Mr. C's (Mr. Covarrubbias, choir) room. Usually, I show up early because I can't actually play very well. One time I was jamming out, playing the song "Mary had a Little Lamb" and bobbing my head like a rock star. It turns out I wasn't a rock star because I turned around and saw my classmates laughing at me."

## CLASS OF 2013



Michael Hall  
De'andre Hampton  
DeAndre Hahnsberry  
Justin Harris



Al-Monteser Hassan  
Mercedes Hermosillo  
Priscilla Hernandez  
Jay Hicks



Jessica Hicks  
David Higgins  
Daizja Hill  
Alexander Holt



Kristianna Hosein  
Jayson Howard  
Sondos Issa  
Angel James



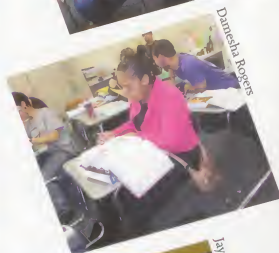
Natalie Jancosek  
Jacqueline Johns  
Darien Jones  
Matthew Kauchak



Rachael Kazmer  
Jack Kessey  
De'andrea Kirnes  
Mathew Kitzmiller



Abby Link and Emily Kornard



Daneisha Rogers



Jed Hicks



Enjoying their thirty minute lunch break juniors Preston Nelson, Chris Benko, and Joey Golub eat their lunch with each other. "I like that we have lunch together because we are all on the football team so we can talk about games," said Nelson.

Catching up on some homework, junior Lindsey Osborn sits in the library and does math and health. "Doing homework in the library is so peaceful because it's always so quiet," said Osborn.



"Junior year went by way faster then what I expected." -Katie Ray.11



David Koen  
Derrick Kong  
Ciarra Kroslack  
Thomas Kudyba  
Amanda Kuiper  
Sarah Kuna  
Shannon Kunka  
Emily Kuzmanoff

Dylan Lambert  
Marica Lewis  
Sydney Lidster  
Emily Linders  
Katelyn Lisle  
Abigail Little  
Jordan Long  
Jacob Loomis



While reading *Moby Dick* in Sheila Vaclavik's English class, junior Prescilla Hernandez participates in the story. "I like how Mrs. Vaclavik uses hand gestures when she reads a story," said Hernandez.

Practicing to make perfect, junior William Bogan hits the ball across the court with full force. "Tennis gets you off your butt and helps you stay active," said Bogan.



## CLASS OF 2013

Kassandra Lopez  
Taylor Losiniecki  
Taylor Louie  
Kelsie Lunsford  
Steven Marquez



Brandon Martin  
Jacqueline Martinez  
Melissa Martinez  
Tiffany McDaniel  
Sarah McGivney



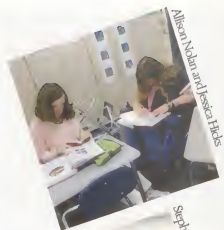
Cynthia McInerney  
Allison Meece  
Alyssa Melchor  
Krystal Mendoza  
Carlos Miranda



Emily Mitchellree  
Jackie Morales  
Jodi Morales  
Abigail Muffett  
Amber Murphy



Ross Myers  
Allison Nolan  
Lindsay Norrick  
Chloe Norton  
Miguel Nunez



Allison Nolan and Jessica Hicks  
Stephanie Younger and Julie Dwyer



Karlan Gonzalez



Juniors Ali Acevedo and Destiny Barajas look at the skull during Julie Wencloff's Biology II class. "I think looking at the bones in 3D is a great way of alternative learning, rather than just looking at pictures on paper," said Acevedo.

Enjoying her free time in choir, junior Stefanie Soy relaxes and catches up with her friends. "Choir is my favorite class because it gives me time to just chill with my classmates and not worry so much," said Soy.

*"We are upperclassmen. but not seniors yet." - Rachel Kazmer, 11*





Christopher O'Brien  
Katie Oros  
Lindsey Osborn  
Janelle Owczarzak  
Kamora Owens  
Alexandra Page  
Kadejah Palmer  
Ashlyn Paris

Benjamin Parish  
Tyler Pena  
Ashley Pinkham  
Chris Pirtle  
Brooke Pospychala  
Rosie Quintanilla  
Kaitlin Ray  
Jamie Rex

Jose Rivera  
Kaegan Rix  
Forrest Roe  
Andrew Rothchild  
Julia Saberniak  
Jeanette Salazar  
Brian Scheeringa  
Chelsea Scofield



Studying the hand bones juniors Brett Brinkley and Joey Rivera examine each others hands. "I think Bio is very interesting; I liked learning about the brain," said Brinkley.

Participating in a group discussion during J.R. Ford's Spanish class, juniors Austin Brown and Karina Silva listen to their classmates opinions. "Working in a group helps me understand the concept of whatever we are doing," said Brown.

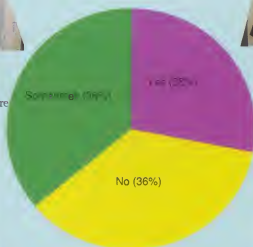
## Do you volunteer?



"I like to volunteer because I like to help others, and it's a great way to fill up your spare time. It helps me stay out of trouble."  
-Evelyn Creech, 11



"Occasionally I volunteer for my community because it feels good to know I have aided those in need."  
-Ailey Clark, 11



"Sometimes I volunteer in my free time at my church by helping the little kids during Sunday school."  
-Angel Nunez, 11



"Volunteering is a wonderful way to meet new people and a good way to get in contact with the ladies."  
-Khris Ayala, 11

\*50 people interviewed

## CLASS OF 2013



Emily Kammhoff



Brian Brinkley



Matthew Seiluns

Matthew Seiluns  
Billy Sharp  
Steven Sharp  
Eeyama Shaw

Chelsea Shinkle  
Karina Silva  
Ashley Sims  
Jesse Smith

Melissa Smith  
Stefanie Soy  
Anna Steinhubel  
Deena Suboh



# Sarah Velasquez

When I was little, I ripped the heads off my barbies and put them on my G.I. Joes.

When I was little, I had a poodle and I would try to ride it because I thought it would grow up to be like Clifford.

I laugh when people die in horror movies.

Thin mints are my favorite cookie.

I play the flute.

I am 17 years old.



Working at Bridges after school, junior Sarah Kuna brought the plates to the kitchen. "I am either a hostess or a bus girl, it just depends what day it is. I work five days a week, I like the people I work with and having money," said Kuna.

*"Junior year is exciting because you know you only have one year left." -Lauren Gonzales, 11*



In seventh hour U.S. history, junior Sean Downs took notes on WWII in Jenna Candiano's class. "I love U.S. history because I have an amazing teacher and I learn a lot from her," said Downs.

During the Homecoming Parade, juniors Ciarra Kroslack and Katelyn Lisle rode in the police car with Officer Peter Ghrist. "Riding in the cop car was exciting because I got to throw candy to the little kids," said Lisle.



Ashley Summers  
Cassandra Taylor  
Ashley Thomas  
Tyler Thomas  
John Tibbs

Michelle Torres  
Michelle Urena  
Maria Valladares  
Sarah Velasquez  
Anna Vogel

Deziree Walker  
Gary Ward  
Patrick Weber  
Stacy Weber  
Karis White

Tasha White  
Tiffany Willfong  
Julian Wright  
LaDarius Wyatt  
LaRell Wyatt

Jesse Yarnelle  
Stephanie Younker  
Selena Zamudio  
Andrew Zarndt  
Sarah Zawistowski

## CLASS OF 2013



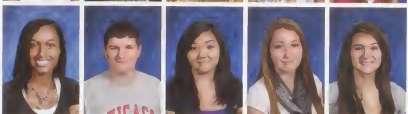
Ashley Adams  
Christian Adams  
Chandler Adkins  
Tonyla Alexander  
Breanna Ally



Jasmine Alvarez  
Michael Alvarez  
Josue Anaya  
Dominique Anderson  
Ashley Arndt



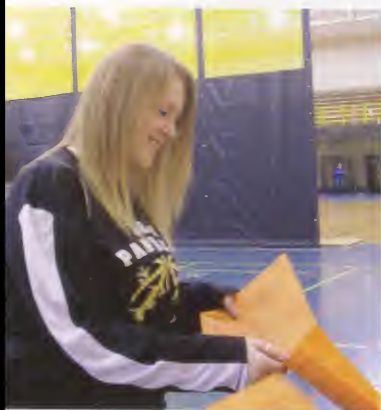
Tara Arnold  
Jonathon Baccino  
Jessica Bahena-Alvarez  
Jordan Baltus  
Rosemary Bartochowski



Brianne Basham  
Kathryn Baum  
Jazmine Bell  
Darius Berry  
Mycheal Booker



Playing mat ball in team sports, sophomore Rodney Lewis is waiting to be able to run to the next mat. "I like mat ball over kick ball because in this game we play with five balls and it is more challenging," said Lewis.



Passing out papers for the basketball test, sophomore Megan Zurawski is helping out Rita Gray in the physical education class. "I love being Ms.Gray's aide because she is generous and helps me with all my problems," said Zurawski.



"I don't like sophomore year because of the classes we have to take." -Cassi Root, 10



Alyx Corona



Erick Johnson



Jessie Nazare



Dakota Broelmann  
Amy Bubala  
Kyle Buikema  
Lauren Bynar  
Lisa Calvillo

Teron Carey  
Yadira Castellanos  
Sydney Chapa  
Andres Chavez  
Jacquelyn Chavez

Michael Coccaro  
Matthew Colomes  
Arnetia Commings  
Alexys Corona  
Corianne Cox

Khali Craig-Garland  
Antonio Crespo  
Matthew Csonka  
Jody Cunningham  
Joseph Dalton

Bobbi Davis  
Darreyl Deberry  
Levi Degand  
Ezekiel Del Val  
Michael Delpino

Logan Denny  
Jenna DeRolf  
Brandon Dickey  
Daniel Dittrich  
Tyler Douglas

Taking notes in her seventh hour Algebra II class, sophomore Jessica Bahena learns the new lesson on graphing. "Math has always been an easy subject for me," said Bahena.

In Luann Pramuk's world history class, sophomore Logan Denny works on a map that goes with the chapter. "Maps are my favorite activity because they are interesting and it is an excellent learning activity," said Denny.



## CLASS OF 2014

Jada Dozier  
Vid Dragutinovic  
Kristen Drozd  
Emily Duhon  
Ryan Dunlap



Tyler Dunlap  
Brandon Dyer  
Chance Edwards  
Ricardo Esquivel  
Zane Fassoth



Andrew Felde  
Todd Fanell  
Sara Fisch  
Cecilia Flores  
Samantha Fuller



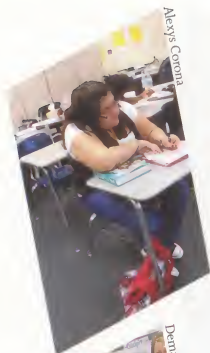
Guadalupe Gamino  
Shelby Gannon  
Brandon Garcia  
Megan Garcia  
Selena Garza



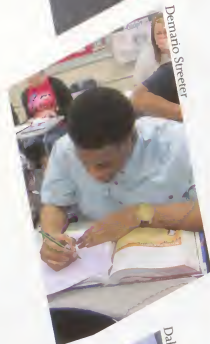
Sarah Gates  
Madeline Gee  
Angela Genovese  
Brandi Gerber  
Robert Gillam



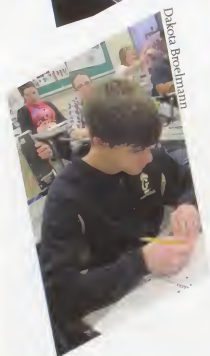
Alexys Corona



Demario Streeter



Dakota Brodman



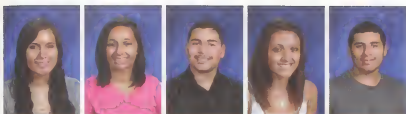
Eating pepperoni pizza at lunch, sophomores Luke Smith, Austin Pena, Zach Stickley, and Andres Chavez talk about the new COD game. "Eating lunch with them is so entertaining because Austin [Pena] makes jokes at everyone," said Smith.

Doodling during class, sophomore Carlos Gonzalez day dreams about his Band performance. "I space out a lot during class, and usually end up drawing something really creative," said Gonzalez.

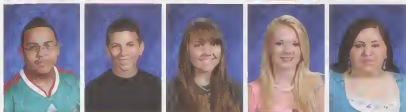


*Sophomore year has been the best year of my life so far." -Vid Dragutinovic.10*

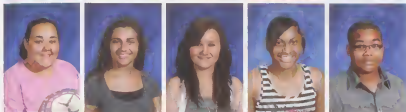




Monica Gonzales  
Sydney Gonzales  
Carlos Gonzalez  
Cecilia Gonzalez  
Ramon Gonzalez



Sergio Gonzalez  
Kyle Gordon  
Taryn Grin  
Michelle Gross  
Jawhara Haddad



Olivia Hamm  
Brooke Haney  
Stephanie Harpst  
Shannon Hawkins  
Marquise Henry



Lauren Hernandez  
Sydney Hilbrich  
Logan Hogue  
George Hudiczkius  
Shelby Ingretson



Excited about knowing the correct answer, sophomore Alicia Page raises her hand waiting to be called on. "I get pumped when I know the right answer in English since it is so hard," said Page.

## Logan Denny

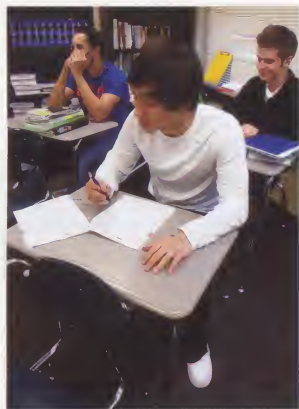
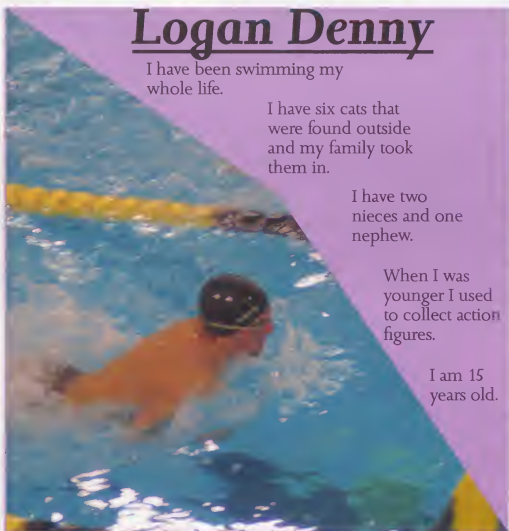
I have been swimming my whole life.

I have six cats that were found outside and my family took them in.

I have two nieces and one nephew.

When I was younger I used to collect action figures.

I am 15 years old.



Working on an English packet, sophomore Brandon Garcia struggles on adjective clauses. "I hate grammar so much. It's so hard, and I'm never going to use it," said Gracia.

## CLASS OF 2014

Jakkar Jackson  
Michael Jackson  
Cornelius Jamison  
Tyus Jenkins  
Isaiah Jimenez



Deanna Johanson  
Erick Johnson  
Kila Johnson  
Aurick Jones  
Byron Jones



Cecily Jones  
Sara Joyce  
Cameron Jung  
Cameron Kegebein  
Madison Kent



Celestine Keys  
Abigail Kik  
Joshua Kime  
Kyle Koble  
Sarah Koliboski



Allyson Krajnak  
Courtney Laviolette  
Kennedy Laviolette  
Nicole Lear  
Kati LeBrun



Andrea Leon  
Dana Lesniewski  
Rodney Lewis  
Tyler Lipski  
Andrew London



Nikolas Long  
Jared Lowe  
Jonathan Madrigal  
Brooke Maglish  
Kamille Manning



Lisa Cañello



Simone Lipscomb

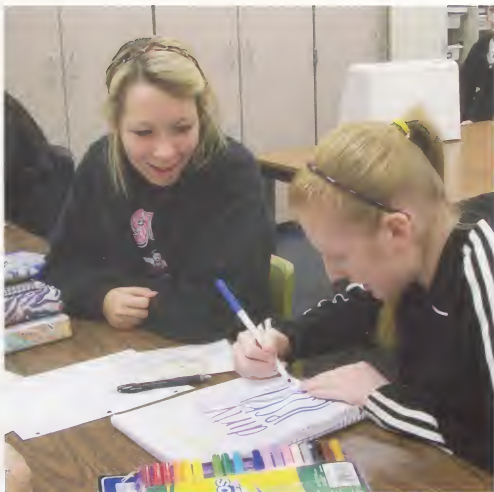


Antonio Cespo

With determination, sophomore Austin Pena attentively listens to Luann Pramuk's lecture in world history so he can be confident on his next test. "Mrs. Pramuk is a great teacher and I enjoy being in her class," said Pena.



"I have more respect now than when I was a freshman." -Mike Delpino, 10



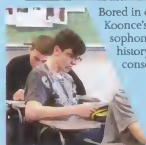
Since sophomores Breanna Ally and Brandi Gerber finished their book work early, they had time to talk. Gerber watched Ally draw a picture while telling her a story. "Prep adult living is a great class to talk about your life," said Gerber.

Practicing for Rita Gray's basketball skills test, sophomore Flint Powell shoots ten free throws. Powell ended up making nine out of ten baskets. "Try your best at all times, you never know who is watching," said Powell.



Reaching for her literature book, sophomore Miriah Berrio prepares to go to English. "I really like my locker downstairs because that's where most of my classes are and most of my friends lockers," said Berrio.

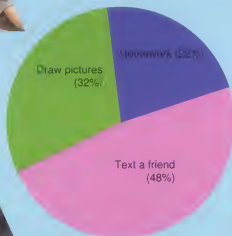
## What do you do in detention?



Bored in detention in Rebecca Koonce's science, classroom, sophomore Alec Mosley does his history homework. "Being bad has consequences," said Mosley.



Being productive, sophomore Jody Cunningham does her homework. "Detention is a good place to get homework done before work," said Cunningham.



Texting his friends while in detention, sophomore Kyle Gordon tries to hide his phone. "Detention is really boring, so I just text," said Gordon.

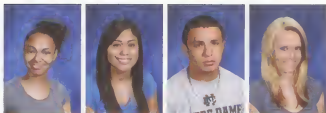


"50 people interviewed"

## CLASS OF 2014



Kyla Manning  
Victoria Mares  
Luis Martinez  
Sara Maywald



Jessie Mazzone  
Connor McCabe  
Julie McCarthy  
Aaron Metz



Kaitlyn Meyer  
David Miranda  
Malik Mitchell  
Samantha Monko



Destiny Moore  
Shakya Moore  
Alec Moseley  
Courtney Muller



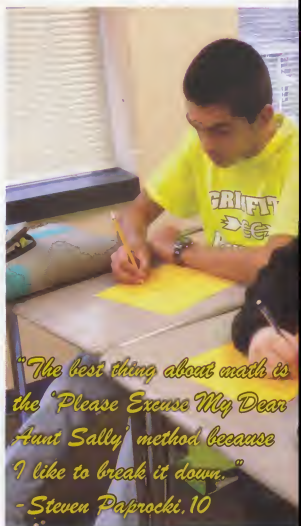
Sirena Nieves  
Paige Obermeyer  
Tristin Olsen  
Katherine Ortosky



Sitting in history class, sophomore Louie Martinez works on his assignment. "On certain days I'm just so tired, and it's hard to stay awake in class," said Martinez.



During soccer practice, sophomore Amy Bubala gets ready to stop the ball from entering the goal. "I like following my sister's footsteps because she was the goalie when she was in high school, too," said Bubala.



"The best thing about math is the 'Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally' method because I like to break it down."  
- Steven Paprocki, 10

"Sophomore year has been an overall great experience, but the thought of being a junior next year is crazy." - Abigail Kik, 10

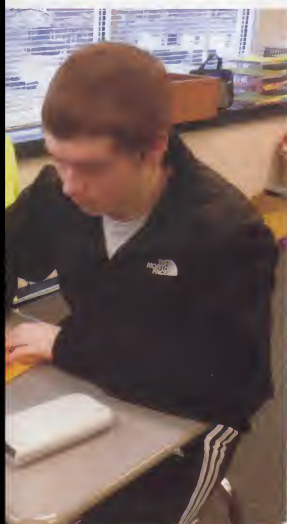


Timothy Orzelski  
Alicia Page  
Tyler Palinca  
Steven Paprocki  
Andrew Pelot  
Austin Pena  
Jose Perez  
Rebecca Perez

Markee Phillips  
Mark Plawecki  
Flint Powell  
Marissa Ramirez  
Cassandra Rardin  
Nathaniel Reitz  
Marisa Rios  
Deshon Robertson

Rebecca Roberts  
Skye Robinson  
Kionn Rodgers  
Alex Rodriguez  
Lisette Roldan  
Cassandra Root  
Eric Rush  
Breanna Sanchez

Rosio Sandoval  
Camesha Scheeringa  
Jeanne Scheffel  
David Schell  
Brienna Schramm  
Dion Seiluns  
Alexis Singer  
Aleia Smith



During a rest at swim practice, sophomore Vid Dragutinovic waits his turn to finish up his laps. "This season of swimming went by fast," said Dragutinovic.

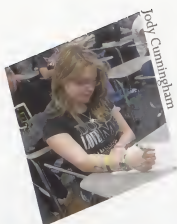
In Stephanie Villarreal's English class, sophomore Monica Gonzales sits with sophomore Bryon Jones and writes down some notes. "I like that we don't get a lot of homework and that all we do is take notes," said Gonzales.



## CLASS OF 2014



Louie Martinez

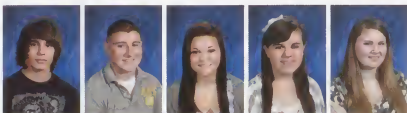


Tody Cunningham



Austin Peña

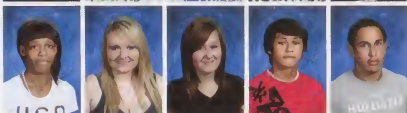
Luke Smith  
Ross Smith  
Victoria Smith  
Emily Solar  
Karley Spriggs



Robert Stack  
Kevin Stevens  
Zachary Stickley  
Brian Stinnett  
Damarlo Streeter



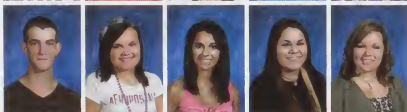
Shadeja Syas  
Morgan Szot  
Brittany Takacs  
Carlos Tellez  
Terrence Tompkins



Thomas Tompkins  
Aaron Tonkovich  
Tessa Trueblood  
Cody Tucker  
Emily Tuttle



Alexander VanPelt  
Sabrina Vanwhite  
Alana Vega  
Devin Vestal  
Melissa Vieyra



Andrea Vo  
Sarah Vrabely  
Jacy Vuckovich  
Cameron Walker  
Da'shauna Walker



Waiting before class, sophomores Tessa Trueblood, Vickie Smith, Andrew Felde and Lauren Hernandez laugh about Felde's shirt. "They kept asking me if my shirt was a face or a foot, and I was getting really mad," said Felde, 10.



"I'm looking forward to my last years at GHS and livin' it up!" David Schell, 10.





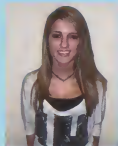
Hailey Watson  
Nicholas Welch  
Brandon White  
Joel White  
Langston Williams  
Nicholas Wilson  
Quinton Wilson

Cole Wimmer  
Jaclyn Witzke  
Faith York  
Erica Yost  
James Zuniga  
Megan Zurawski

## How did you meet your BF/GF?



"Chance [Edwards, 10] and I met in 8th grade in our English class with Lisa Cotto. I never really expected that I would date him back then, but I always thought he was cute. Now that we are dating, he always surprises me with flowers and food. He isn't just my boyfriend, he is my best friend." -Breanna Ally, 10



"Alex [Diaz, 11] and I met when I was in 7th grade. I always thought he was super cute, and we talked for a really long time. We have been dating for a year and 8 months, and I've loved every minute of it. I love my boo boo." -Alexis Singer, 10



"David [Higgins, 11] and I met in 8th grade at Central Park after a baseball game. I never really thought I would ever date him, but I am so happy that I am. I have a lot of stress in my life, and David is always there to brighten my day. I love him!" -Sarah Vrabely, 10



Cameron [Kegebein, 10] and I met in 8th grade in Tracy Whitman's English class. He sat behind me for a whole semester, and I would tease him for his horrible handwriting. We've been dating for 9 months, and hopefully many more." -Lisa Calvillo, 10



"Ashley [Arndt, 10] and I met in 8th grade in Mr. Cornwell's class. We didn't start dating until the beginning of summer after freshman year. She is the only person that I fully trust, and I am so glad that I met her." -Christian Adams, 10

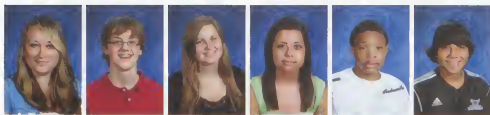


Complaining about his test grade, sophomore Michael Delpino argues about a wrong answer on his slope test. "I don't understand Algebra II at all. It isn't that complicated; I just can't focus," said Delpino, 10.

After completing her vocabulary test, sophomore Karley Spriggs waits for the rest of her English class to finish. "Mrs. Vlacvik makes the tests really hard, especially when she puts words from previous chapters on them," said Spriggs.

## CLASS OF 2014

Faith Adams  
Jonathan Adams  
Melissa Ahlquist  
Andrea Aldape  
Kentrell Allen  
Cristian Anaya



Ashanique Anderson  
Alexis Atkinson  
Jordan Avalos  
Alicia Baker  
Samantha Bakker  
Sarah Balboa



Kennedy Baltus  
Courtney Bell  
Jenna Bellamy  
Michael Blair  
Michael Bodnar  
Jared Braddam



Maurice Branch  
Tina Brantley  
Aaron Brown  
Anthony Brown  
Brittany Burbridge  
Savanna Burke



Chad Campbell  
Miguel Cano  
Rebecca Carpenter  
Brianna Carter  
Alicia Casares  
Sarah Cavazos



Melissa Chiara  
Austin Christenberry  
Dazanae Cooper  
Brittany Crozier  
Lisa Dabney  
Reanna Danielewicz



Janna Darnell-Mendez  
Michael Darrough  
Julia Davies  
Anita DeBerry  
Zachary Diamond  
Jordan Dillon



Sarah Dodson  
Ashley Douglas  
Michael Douglas  
Alyssa Drozd  
Jasmyne Dudley  
Taylor Dunagan



Brianne Carter

Amelia Beck

Bern Russell

"Being a freshmen can be really stressful at times." -Elizah Pierce, 9



Playing basketball in Rita Gray's gym class, freshmen Patty Felton, Samantha Bakker, Meghan Geary and Alicia Casares talk about the game. "I enjoy playing sports, making gym one of my favorite classes," said Felton.



Reading in their literature book in their fifth hour class, freshmen Nick Johnson and Emily Morrison switch reading parts in *The Odyssey*. "I found the story incredibly interesting because of all of the different characters," said Johnson.



While getting ready for class with freshman Alyssa Drozd, freshman Seth Shepard talks to her about their classes. "Even though I don't have classes with Alyssa, I still love seeing her after class when we meet up at her locker," said Shepard.



During the *Romeo and Juliet* section in Lisa Megquier's class, freshman Janna Darnell-Mendez explains what's going on in the play. "I had never read the play until this year and I was really interested in reading it," said Darnell-Mendez.



## Reba Hart

My lucky number is 144.

Whenever I can I try to text friends.

Drawing and singing happen to be some of my favorite past times.

My mottos always have something to do with short people, like me.

I love writing stories with friends and family.

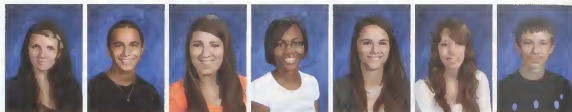
I'll listen to almost anything, but I prefer heavy metal and rock.

I adore the colors red, black and purple and love to wear them when I can.

## CLASS OF 2015



Christen Dunn  
Noah Duvnjak  
Kaitlyn Edwards  
Tyneah Ellis  
Danielle Falkner  
Patricia Felton  
Hunter Fleming



Alex Fowle  
Alec Fowler  
Geoffrey Fullilove  
Daivonte Gaines  
Alexander Garcia  
Jesse Gates  
Sara Gatlin



Meghan Geary  
Becky Gong  
Chelsea Gonzales  
Catie Gregor  
Kassidy Grumbles  
Kristi Grumbles  
Leif Gulbransen



Savannah Gutierrez  
Connor Guzior  
Nathan Haizlip  
Codi Hamilton  
Mathew Harrison  
Reba Hart  
Jenny Helfen



Adam Henson  
Josiah Hernandez  
Robert Hernandez  
Emily Herron  
Amber Holley  
Samantha Horn  
Adam Hoover



Breana Houser  
Anwar Issa  
Nejma Issa  
Alero Jackson  
Banesa Jaimez  
David Jancosek  
William Jarrells



Before the Homecoming Parade, freshman Tina Brantley talks to Lynn Rhodes about walking her dog. "FCCLA was walking dogs to help spread awareness about the dogs who live in shelters," said Brantley.



"I like being a freshman because I get to look up to the older kids." -Breana Houser, 9



In October 2011, freshman Janna Darnell-Mendez performs "If I Ain't Got You" by Alicia Keys on the piano during coffee night. "I was really nervous so I tried to collect myself so I could get through the performance," said Darnell-Mendez.

Freshman Aaron Brown practices tennis with a fellow student at the school tennis courts after school. "If I want something, I will get it," said Brown.

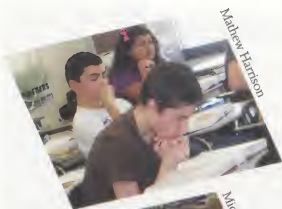


During fifth hour gym, freshman Brianna Carter plays volleyball with her class in the fieldhouse. Carter's team won by two points. "Being a freshman is much better than being a middle school student. We are able to do almost anything we want," said Carter.

While in Janette Vehrs's English class, freshman Kourtney Washick fills out her course description guide with the classes that interest her to prepare for the upcoming year. "I'm excited for classes next year because I have never experienced them before," said Washick.



## CLASS OF 2015



Matthew Hanson



Michael Darrosh



Samantha Sammons

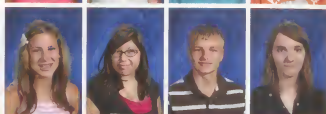
Alexis Johnson  
Marcus Johnson  
Nicholas Johnson  
Samantha Johnson



Taylor Jones  
Brittany Kealey  
Alexander Kepchar  
Ryan Kong



Rhiannon Kozy  
Eva Krespo  
Cody Labicki  
Kayla LaBuda



Edward Land  
Annika Lanting  
Lorenzo Lee  
Jessica Leslie



Catlyn Lewis  
Marissa Lopez  
Dylan Lounges  
Jocelyn Lujan



Enjoying their lunch hour, freshmen Blair Morton and Katie James laugh and talk about the school's cafeteria food. "All of the food is pretty disgusting besides the pizza!" said Morton.



*"Freshman year wasn't as bad as I expected because the seniors weren't allowed to prank us." - Alyssa Drozd, 9*





Michael Lunsford  
Madison Lynch  
Robert Malone  
Kaitlynn Mang  
Laith Mansour  
Terra Martin  
Sandra Martinez  
Emilie Martocchio

Evan Masters  
Emily Matson  
Samantha McNeiley  
Daisy McReynolds  
Hannah Miller  
Matthew Miller  
Antonio Mohoi  
Brian Moore

Danielle Moore  
Elizabeth Moriks  
Emily Morrison  
Blair Morton  
Nicholas Mosqueda  
Bridgette Mozham  
Jordan Mull  
Christian Muniz



Sitting in a study circle they created, freshmen students in Lisa Megquier's English 9 class read *Romeo and Juliet*. "We all played out the parts as we read. It helped us remember and have fun. I was Paris!" said Maleri Ward.

On January 13th, freshman Alexis Atkinson danced with her best friends at GHS's winter formal. "Turnabout was really fun, but I wish I could have changed into a shorter dress to dance," said Atkinson.



## Michael Lunsford

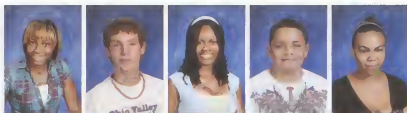
During team bonding, freshman Michael Lunsford and his fellow freshman basketball teammates met up for lunch at Hooters.

All of Lunsford's teammates told the hostess it was Lunsford's birthday.

"The Hooters girls made me stand up on my stool and flap my 'wings'. I was so humiliated because my teammates were all laughing at me," said Lunsford.

## CLASS OF 2015

Dyonna New  
Ryan Nunez  
Kristin Page  
Collin Pascoe  
Amber Peoples



Daniel Perez  
Elijah Pierce  
Madison Plebanski  
Thomas Plesek  
Matthew Potacki



Rodolfo Quintanilla  
Andrea Ramirez  
Gilberto Rangel  
Morgan Rasberry  
Deondra Ratliff



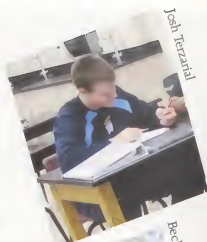
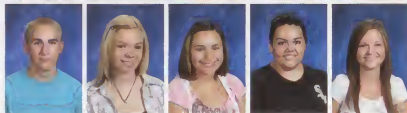
Joshua Ray  
Ashleigh Rettie  
Mavarick Richardson  
Jennise Rivera  
Brienne Robertson



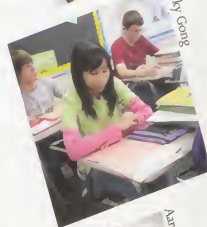
Miranda Robertson  
Tristan Robertson  
Cesar Rodriguez  
Jessie Rodriguez  
Lauren Rotermond



Benjamin Russell  
Caroline Rutherford  
Savannah Sammons  
Brianna Sanchez  
Stephanie Sanders



Josh Terzani



Becky Coors

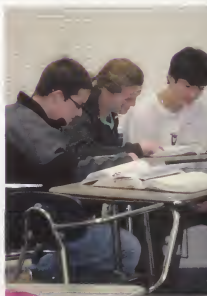


Aaron Brown



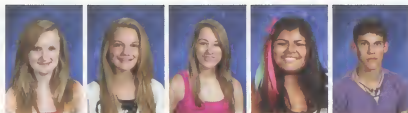
Getting ready to sit down and eat lunch, freshman Courtney Bell joins her friends, freshmen Christy Slagle and Alexis Atkinson, at the table. "I love lunch because I get to catch up with all my friends and just relax for a little bit," said Bell.

Working on a group project in English 9 Enriched, freshmen Zach Diamond and Hannah Miller help out their group. "Enriched English is a lot of work, but I know in the long run it will help me," said Diamond.



"I'm excited for the rest of high school to fly by." -Robert Hernandez, 9

Performing at her first Homecoming Pep Rally, freshman Elizabeth Morikis gets ready for the cheer routine. "Cheerleading is a lot of work, but it was worth doing because I made a lot of new friends and had fun cheering," said Morikis.



Kaley Sarwacinski  
Rebecca Schnoor  
Kayla Scott  
Jocelyn Serna  
Seth Shepard



Leaving class early with a five minute pass, freshmen Emily Morrison and Savannah Sammons go to Morrison's locker. "After having back surgery I'm really glad I got a pass," said Morrison.

## Brianna Carter

**Love:**  
Justin Bieber

**Hate:**  
Fake people

*Trying to fit in freshman year isn't easy, but playing a sport helps you get to know more people. "I've been playing basketball since I was little and played on the team this year. I made a lot of new friends and got to dress for sectionals. I really like high school so far."*



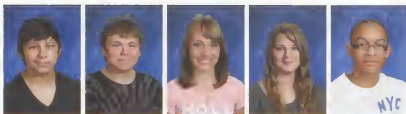
*"I'm enjoying high school, but I wish there weren't so many fights."*



## CLASS OF 2015



Nathyn Sierra  
Travis Skarzynski  
Christy Slagle  
Savannah Slaven  
Bryan Smith



Cara Smith  
Rose Smith  
Semajie Smith  
Tiffany Smolen  
Christian Smoot



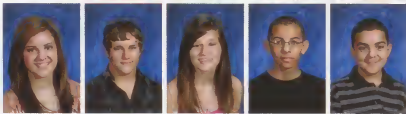
Trevor Steffan  
Amanda Stelk  
Taylor Strauch  
Antonio Suarez  
Danielle Suboh



Alana Swopes  
Nathan Szabo  
Brett Tauber  
Joshua Terzarial  
Melissa Thiel



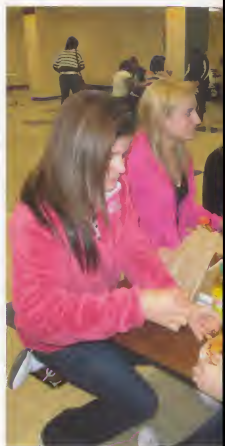
Victoria Traicoff  
Logan Ulrich  
Courtney Valentias  
Jairo Vazquez  
Joshua Vega



Justin Villalobos  
Celeste Villarruel  
Chelsea Waddell  
Maleri Ward  
Kourtney Washick



In high school, finding a lunch table can be difficult to do, but freshman **Tori Traicoff** found one that fits all her friends. "This is the only time that I can be with my friends for a half hour and just let loose. It's a great break during my day," said Traicoff.



Volleyball in Freshman Gym Class



Cara Smith, Blair Keene, and Abby Donlon



Ben Buesell

*"As a freshman, I was most excited about going to all the dances." - Emilie Martoccio, 9*



Madison Watts  
Matthew White  
Shania White  
Ty White  
Adrian Williams  
Damenna Williams  
Shelby Winchester  
Ryan Zuklin



*"I like gym.  
because it is good  
exercise."*

*-Evan Masters, 9*



After taking her test, freshman Kourtney Washick looks over the 2012-2013 course description guide. "I can not believe I'm scheduling for my sophomore year. My freshman year went by so fast," said Washick.

Sketching out his next project, freshman Michael Darrough used the ruler to make sure all the lines were perfect. "This class is meant as a down time but it also benefits me because I can get my creative juices flowing," said Darrough.



## CLASS OF 2015

*"We have to work for money to go on school trips. As a student, various clubs and sports are always forcing you to raise money for new uniforms and t-shirts. The school doesn't always have money to lend so we have to raise it ourselves. Making posters, holding car washes and selling boxes of candy is worth it in the end when we have those fresh dollar bills in our hands. Fundraising is hard but we constantly have to work towards our goals."*

—Abbey Little, 11

As a student at Griffith High School, advertisements are a part of every day life. Signs for dances, fundraisers, and school spirit are always decorating the hallways and lunchroom. At one time or another, almost all of the student body has had to fundraise for either a club or a sport. Fundraising and advertising are not always the most pleasant way to spend an hour after school, but they are certainly the most effective way to earn money.

Students that play sports are almost always fundraising at the beginning of their season. While the luckier sports like football and baseball are holding fundraisers with their booster clubs, other teams have to take another route. For the Griffith High School softball team, fundraising is a large part of the season. The team sold superbowls, squares and final four squares in order to get funds up.

"We had to fundraise for new uniforms because the old ones were too thin and we play in forty degree weather. At least the new uniforms were worth the work," said junior Sarah Galambos.

Other than sports, clubs are also fundraising. The Griffith High School chorale had to fundraise over one thousand dollars in order to go on their four day trip to Orlando, Florida and Miami, Florida to sing at Universal Studios. The students sold cookie dough, sold advertisements for their fall and winter concerts, held a pancake breakfast, sang at various locations for donations, and sold poinsettias in order to raise money.

Chorale ended up fundraising an excess of money and most students received monetary donations from the stores and parks where they sang.

"I really liked the ads fundraiser because we got all of the profits and it was the most successful. But, my absolute favorite fundraiser we did was the pancake breakfast because I got to bond with everyone and of course, eat all of the left over bacon and cinnamon buns," said senior Stacie Hansen. Chorale created posters to advertise for the pancake breakfast that they hung in the cafeteria and in all of the hallways and put a reminder in the announcements every day.

Another club that was struggling for money was the Reflector staff. Because yearbooks could not be sold at registration, yearbook sales took a plunge. In order to make the yearbook full color instead of black and white, the staff had to sell five yearbooks each as an assignment for one hundred points. The group didn't raise as much as they had hoped for, but they still raised enough to keep their full color yearbook.

Yet another club had to fundraise in order to go on a trip. DECA qualified for state in Indianapolis and needed to fundraise for their trip. In order to raise money, the students sold boxes of candy.

For some biology students, they had the opportunity to take a trip to Belize in order to visit the Lamanai Ruins, the Xun-tunich Ruins and the Chaa Creek Natural History Center. The students also took river boat rides on both the New River Lagoon and the Old Belize River where they got to observe the different plants and animals. Another plus of the trip was that the students could take a zip line tour, take a guided jungle hike, or snorkel at the Hol Chan and Ambergris Caye. To raise money, the students sold t-shirts and they went to local businesses to ask for sponsorship.

Fundraising and advertising for fundraisers are part of a student's daily life. Whether participating in a club or a sport, money is always a factor in the success of that organization. Advertising and fundraising can get a bit tedious, but it is necessary. After all, money makes the world go around.





*Angela Baker*



The last 18 years have been a wonderful journey as we watched you grow into the beautiful person you are today. We wish you a lot of happiness as you begin your college life.

Good luck at ISU!

Love,  
Dad, Mom, Stephen and Jordan



Congratulations Greg! We are very proud of you and all the accomplishments you have achieved. As you begin your next journey in life, let your faith, knowledge, and love be a shining example of what an outstanding young man you are.

We love you very much,  
Mom and Dad



*Greg Rothchild*

*Stephanie Brandner*



A Daughter Is Love  
A Daughter is Laughter and Tenderness  
Sweet Memories, Too...  
But Most of All, Happiness  
Every Year Through

It Doesn't Seem So Long Ago  
But More Like Yesterday  
That You Were Just a Little Girl  
Still Happily at Play

And Yet Somehow, As Time Has Passed

You've Grown Sweeter, Dear  
That's Why You're Thought So Much Of  
And Loved More Every Year

We will always be there for you,  
Stephanie

Love,  
Mom, Dad,  
Adam, and  
Lindsay



*Amber Atkins*



*Amber 2012*

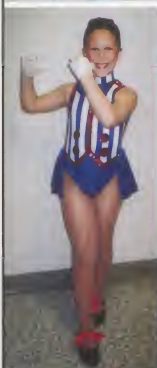


*Amber*

Amber,

We are so very proud of you. Your accomplishments in life and high school have been very exciting for us to witness. You excel even though life hasn't always been "smooth sailing." Your determination and strength will have mostly served you well. We are so excited for your future.

We love you very much,  
Grammy and Papaw



# Alice Duhan



Alice,

We have enjoyed watching and guiding your journey from infancy to adulthood. It has been a joy to watch as you have grown into a beautiful, talented, intelligent and inspiring young woman.

It is no surprise that our baby, who has been dancing since she could walk, has developed such a passion for the fine arts. We saw it start with the dance classes when you were 2 1/2 years old and still enjoy today. We saw it in the three trips with the Young Americans to Florida where you sang and danced on the stages of Universal Studios, Sea World, Epcot and Disney's Magic Kingdom. We see it now in the love of theater which has propelled you to a life in the art of entertainment.

"Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life," said Confucius. We hope that you will never have to work! We wish you a life of happiness and joy. Chase your dreams! Reach for the stars! You always have been and always will be

our star.

Mom and Dad





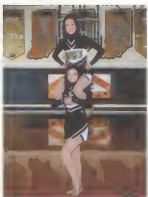


Precious moments are life's  
little treasures in the way  
we laugh and when we cry,  
the way we say hi and the  
way we say good bye. The  
best treasure is the love we  
have in our hearts for you,  
Bobby, no matter where  
you go in life.  
Love you always,  
Mom & Dad



*Robert  
A.  
Stevens*





*Hanna  
Urabely*



Dear Hanna,

From the moment we laid our eyes on you, we knew you were perfect in every way, most importantly, you were ours! Every single day of your life we have been proud to call you our daughter. From the day your little sister came along, you have continued to be the best big sister anyone could ask for, always watching out for your Boo. Your achievements in academics, dance, choir, student council, volunteer work, church, and mission work make you our true hero. There has not been one day that you brought us anything other than an abundance of love, adoration, pride, and true faith in God. Your career choice as an Occupational Therapist is perfect for your personality, your life goals in working with children, and your inherent gift of giving. As you move forward, remain the person you are and all of your goals and aspirations will be fulfilled. Keep your unconditional love to all, remain loyal to those important in your life, and NEVER waver on your faith in God. We love you with all of our heart, you are beautiful inside and out, and we will always be there for you in every aspect of your life.

All our love forever,  
Mom, Dad & Sarah



*Ellison  
Cullen*



Ellison,

We are very blessed to have you for our daughter. You have become a beautiful person inside and out. We are so proud of you and everything you have accomplished. Remember to follow your dreams and your heart.

Love,  
Mom, Dad, Rex & Troy

*Melissa  
Miller*



Melissa,  
Congratulations! We are so proud of you. We wish nothing but the best for you. We know you will succeed in whatever you do.

Love,  
Mom, Dad, Joshua and Jason

Dear Robert,  
We feel truly blessed that you came into our lives and are so proud of your accomplishments, as you embark on the next adventure in life, strive to keep an open mind and continue to be the amazing person we know you are. Congratulations graduate!

Love,  
Mom & Dad



*Robert  
Beach* Jun 2012



## Nicholas Rudyba

Nicholas,  
Ever since you were a little boy, you had the ability to make those around you smile. Even in the toughest situations, you always remain positive. Your patience and easy going spirit turned you into a great leader.

The encouragement and leadership to show to your teammates, both on and off the field, makes us proud to see that you have grown up to be a respectful young man. Even with all of your accomplishments, you have remained very modest.

We want you to know that you've always made Mom proud. Your great optimistic attitude has taken you far and you will only continue to grow from here. We know that no matter where life takes you, great happiness and success will accompany you. Just follow your heart and you will succeed.

All our love,  
Mom, Dad, Erica & Thomas



Congratulations on making it to Semi-State twice, individually for bowling. We are proud of you. Hope you achieve your dreams. Good luck bowling for college.

Love,  
Mom, Dad, Kyle,  
Grandma & PaPa

## Margaret Cartwright



From the days of your concerts on the coffee table and being our special assistant at PCC softball games, you have worked so hard and accomplished so much! We want you to know we are so proud of you and we love you so very much. CONGRATULATIONS!

"Monk" you are so special!!

Ma & Wayne

First half complete---second half starting--

## Haley Marshall



It seems like just yesterday we watched you graduate from pre-school, and now it's high school, soon....College! You've brought us much joy and made us very proud! There's no limit to the success you can and will achieve!

With all our love always,  
Mom & Dad





*Brookie*



# Brooke Brinkley

Brookie,

What an amazing, talented and beautiful young woman you have become. Your kindness and generosity reflect in everything you do. What a delightful eighteen years we have seen so far. Looking forward to seeing what exciting things your future holds for us all! As your family, we couldn't be more proud of a daughter and sister as we are of you! So go out and conquer the "Epitents" of the world!

We love you with all our hearts,  
Daddy, Mommy, Kier and Brett



## Zack Muller



Where has the time gone? It went way too fast. You went from our little boy to a handsome young man. We are so proud of the mature, responsible person you have become. We wish you all the best in everything you do in life. You can do anything you put your mind to. Always know that near or far, we will always be there for you. We are proud of you and love you very much.

Love,  
Mom, Dad, Courtney and Chad

Cali,  
Words can never express how proud we are of the person you have become or how much we love you. May all your dreams come true. Be happy!

Love,  
Mom, Dad & Nicole



*Cali Lemus*



One part of your journey through life is over...strive for a good today and an even better tomorrow. Always look towards your future, for you hold it in the palm of your hand--good things will happen! All of our love will help pave your way on your journey! Congratulations

Jae!  
Love,  
Mom and Dad



It's hard to believe 18 years has gone by and that sassy, funny, energetic, and cute, dark-eyed little girl of ours is all grown up! You have brought so much fun and happiness to our family. We have loved and will miss watching our little dancer. You have so much to look forward to...now is your time to go for and reach your hopes and dreams. You have worked hard and you deserve it! We can't wait to see what your future brings. We are so proud of you.

Love you lots,  
Dad, Mom, Matt, Hillary, & Jon

## Mallory Baccino



## Lisa Korpela



Congratulations, it's amazing how quickly the years have passed and how high school graduation is here. All of us are very proud of all your accomplishments and know you will succeed in whatever you do. This is an exciting time in your life, ending one part of your education and beginning another path as well as discovering your life long career.

Love,  
Mom, Dad, and Ken



## Tiffany Burrbridage



Congratulations Tiffany!  
You have grown into such a beautiful young lady. We love you very much and are so proud of you. You have a bright future ahead of you. We wish you the best of luck in everything!

Love,  
Mom, Dad, Jessica & Danny





Samantha,  
I am so proud of  
the person you  
have become and  
everything you  
have accomplished.

Keep up your  
amazing and conta-  
gious spirit and always  
push yourself to be  
your best. I love you!

Love,  
Mom

*Samantha  
Aguilar*



*Brianna Blas*

Brianna,  
Wow, how time has  
flown and how excited  
we are to see you move  
from one journey to an-  
other. With high school  
behind you, the future is  
yours; embrace it. Own it  
and take care of it.

We are so proud of you!!

WE LOVE YOU VERY,  
VERY, MUCH!!

Mom, Dad, Sister



When you were born, we had many hopes and dreams for you. There were ups and downs along the way, but as we watched you grow, you became so much more than we could have imagined. We are \*so proud\* of the smart, beautiful, independent person you've become and all you've accomplished.

We still have hopes and dreams for you. Dreams of happiness, dreams of success and dreams of love. And we're sure you'll exceed our dreams, just as you've been doing all these years!

Love you bunches and beaucoup!!  
Mom, Dad, Grammie, Grandee and Pap

Courtney,

You are the best thing to ever happen to  
me. I can't wait to see where you go in life.  
Love,  
Dad



*Courtney 2012*

*Courtney Hargis*





## Alysia Metsch

All Grown Up  
My, how you have grown,  
Seems like yesterday you were just a babe,  
Now you have turned into a beautiful young lady.

You have your whole life before you,  
In the years to come what will you do.  
I pray that all your dreams come true.

You are dearly loved by the ones who love you.  
Just remember that God is always with you  
in everything you do.

Love you- Dad, Mom, David and Abby



## Sarah Clark



Congratulations! We are  
so proud of you. Our  
little girl has grown into  
a beautiful young lady.  
You've made so many  
amazing accomplish-  
ments. We love you.

Love,  
Mom, Dad & Lauren

Nathan,

It has been a long and difficult  
road. I know I have been there  
each and every step of the way.  
Son, you did it! And I am so very  
proud of all of your accomplish-  
ments. Your future is so very  
bright and you are so ready to  
get your hands dirty.

I love you.  
Love,  
Ma



Nathan  
Badley

## Kelsey Bonewits



Dear Kelsey,  
Your high school career  
was a record breaking  
one! We are very proud  
of all you have accom-  
plished. Good luck at  
Wayne State-- we know  
you will love it there!

Love,  
Mom & Dad





## Niki Dittrich

Niki,

Congratulations on your high school graduation! I couldn't be more proud of you! As you close this chapter in your life and begin the next, I wish for you the very best there is, all the joys of life to come, and all the hopes and dreams you can imagine.

Much love,

Mom



## Tyler Yost

Congratulations on all of your accomplishments. We are so proud of the amazing young man you have become, determined, respectful, and compassionate. You have brought us so much joy and happiness. As you enter the next chapter of life, we wish you the best of luck, and know that we will always be there for you. We love you!

Love,

Mom, Dad, Kristen, Erica & Hunter







# Rachel Garastik



## Rachel, our witty, beautiful, brilliant Bookworm!

We are so proud of you and your accomplishments. Follow your dreams ~ follow your heart. Never stop learning and making people laugh. We know you will continue to do great things and we will be there for you all along the way ~ cheering you on! Shake the dust... Love you to the moon and back, Boo!

Mom, Dad & Jake





*Nathan McNeil*



So many words come to mind when we think of you, Nate. You have always had the drive to accomplish everything put in front of you. You are a strong and dedicated young man. We are so proud and filled with excitement to see you graduate from high school and begin another chapter in your life.

Your biggest fan,  
Momma, Father, brothers Casey, Josh and Owen

We love you more than anything!

*Amanda Falcon*



Amanda,  
Congratulations! We are so proud of you and all that you have accomplished. Good luck on the next chapter in life.

Love,  
Mom & Dad

Emilee,

It's hard to believe that you are graduating. We have enjoyed watching how much fun you have made your high school years. Watching you in Pantherettes and softball through the years has been great! Your easy-going, positive personality makes you such a joy to be around. We are very proud of you and know that you will continue to achieve great things as you begin this new chapter of your life. Congratulations and we love you.

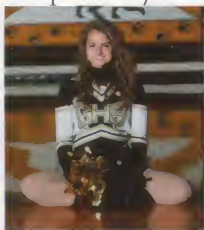
Mom, Dad, and sisters



*Emilee Trueblood*



*Sarah Guistolisi*



Sarah,  
It is so hard to believe that you are graduating already! It has been a privilege to watch you grow from a beautiful, smiling baby to the incredible, kind and poised young adult you are today. We are so proud of you! You are going to do great things, love you!

Mom, Dad,  
Mike, Austin  
and Anna

# Marisa Mureiko



From the very moment you came into our lives, we knew we had been given someone special. We have watched with wonder and awe as you have grown from a child, which you will always be to us, into a most amazing woman. Your ability to continually rise above any and all challenges proves to us that your future will be filled with continued success. There is no limit to what you can and will accomplish as you move forward and up in life. We want you to know that we are so incredibly proud of you and all of your accomplishments and that we love you more than any words can express.

Love,

Mom, Dad, Mamaw and Papaw







## *Brittni McLeomore*

Brittni,

Young woman, my daughter,  
my joy and my heart,  
You taught me love unconditional  
from that first moment in my arms.

It seems just yesterday  
that I held your little hand,  
as you started kindergarten  
and made new friends.

And now today  
a new chapter of life begins,  
as high school years  
comes to an end.

The world sees the young woman  
you have grown to be,  
with her charm and her smile,  
and own personality.

But behind that young woman,  
I will always see,  
My beautiful daughter,  
my child, my baby.

Love,  
Mom



## Katalina Villalpando



We are so very proud of you. May today's success be the beginning of tomorrow's achievements. Congratulations. Wishing you the best of luck in college!

Love,  
Mom, Dad & Jason



## Joe Vaclavik



Joe,  
We are so very proud of you. You have accomplished so much in your four years at GHS. We have enjoyed every minute of watching you play soccer, hearing your music, and seeing you advance in your studies. Congratulations, and good-luck in college.

Love,  
Mom and Dad

## Haley Marshall



Congratulations on your graduation. You have made me proud everyday and you continue to do so. It has been a pleasure to raise you. I love you all the way to the moon and back.

Love you,  
Mom



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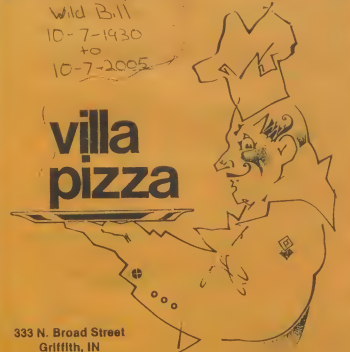
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# Gianni Rivera



Congratulations Gianni!!  
We hope your dreams take you...  
to the highest of your hopes,  
to the windows of your opportunities,  
and to the most special places your  
heart has ever known.

We are so VERY proud of your accomplishments  
and support you in pursuing your goals.

With all our love,

Mom & Dad

Grandma & Grandpa





## Brianna Bias



Congratulations Brianna. . . .  
From a very early age, you have  
shown a very wonderful  
personality, shown great  
character and  
accomplished much.

With self-confidence,  
continue on this path to your  
life's dreams.

Love,  
Your Grandparents, Bias

## Austin Foster

Thank you for all of the  
wonderful memories! It  
has been such a privilege  
to watch you grow up to  
become an incredible  
person. We are so proud  
of you and all that you  
have accomplished. We  
know you will succeed in  
whatever you do in life.  
We love you so much and  
are always there for you!

Love,  
Mom, Doug, Brady, and  
Peanutbutter



## Shae Siskos



Shae Marie,  
You are a beautiful, kind, smart  
and strong young lady. May all  
your dreams come true. Aim  
high cause everything is possi-  
ble. Take every moment one at  
a time. And always remember  
"Everything always works out."  
Love you forever and ever.  
"Your family"

*Troy Yarnelle*

Troy you have come so far, accomplished so much yet you have a new and more promising horizon before you. You set goals and reached them, culminating in a trip to the state meet in the 300 IM Hurdles. Watching you play football and run track over these past four years has been a great source of pride and joy for Jesse, Colin, your mom and me. Troy always remember to keep your positive outlook and work ethic. Build on your success and honesty and you will go far.

Love Mom, Dad, Jesse and Colin



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and melt  
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**E** "I feel a sense  
of security  
when I snap  
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Quarterback, Austin  
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it's in good hands." said  
Chance Edwards. 10

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**F** "Live it up. it  
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**G** "Being in band was  
awesome this year."  
said Jesse Gates. 9

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**H** "I've never  
been more excited  
for summer  
than I am this year school  
dragged on too long." said  
Sarah Balboa. 9

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**H** *High School turned out to be a lot different than I thought it would but I had a good year," said Anwar Issa. 9*

Ingbretson, Shelby 111, 157  
Issa, Anwar 28, 75, 116, 117, 166  
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**J** *"Keep on dreaming like a boss," said Darion Jones. 11*

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**K** *"I made a lot of great memories these four years. but i am glad to move on and start college." said Nick Kudysba*

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Kunka, Shannon 18, 80, 82, 83, 114, 149  
Kurpela, Lisa 81, 138, 183  
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**L** *"High school is going by so fast. it will be over before I know it." said Katie LeBrun. 10*

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Lunsford, Michael 104, 169  
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**M** *"Don't let anything get in the way of your dreams." said Haley Marshall. 12*

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**N** I received  
my tennis letter  
and it made  
me feel accomplished. I  
also received the award  
for most improved on  
my team." said Chloe  
Norton. 11

Nagel, Brianna 141  
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Nelleman, Mark 37, 141  
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Noojin, Lindsay 25, 138, 141  
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Norsweather, Kenneth 36  
Norton, Chloe 118, 150  
Nowak, Jerry 138, 141  
Nunez, Angel 18, 56, 88, 89, 150, 151  
Nunez, Ryan 78, 170

**O** "My sophomore  
year was crazy to  
say the least. I  
had some some good  
and bad times this year. All  
in all, it was enjoyable."  
Tristin Olsen. 10

O'Brien, Agnes 141  
O'Brien, Andrew 34, 141  
O'Brien, Christopher 151  
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Oros, Katie 151, 160  
Orzelski, Timothy 161  
Osborn, Lindsey 148, 151  
Owczarzak, Janelle 35, 78, 80, 81, 95, 151  
Owens, Kamora 151

**P** "This year I went  
to my first dance.  
Turnabout. I had  
an awesome time seeing all my  
was on turnabout court which  
I didn't expect at all." Tyler  
Patinca. 10

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Pospychala, Brooke 35, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 95, 151  
Potacki, Matthew 54, 93, 170  
Powell, Flint 15, 104, 105, 159, 161  
Price, Doug 112, 114

**2** "High School  
is like a box of  
chocolate. you never  
know what you're  
going to get." said Rosie  
Quintanilla. 11

Quintanilla, Rodolfo 112  
Quintanilla, Rosie 53, 80, 81, 94, 95, 151

**R** "Working hard  
pays off. so  
do your best in  
everything you put your  
mind to." said Alex  
Rodriguez. 10

Ramirez, Andrea 170  
Ramirez, Marissa 161  
Ramirez, Steven 83, 141  
Rangel, Gilberto 170  
Rapka, Nikki 141  
Rardin, Cassandra 161  
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Russell, Amy 14, 42, 43, 80, 82, 94, 95, 138, 142  
Russell, Benjamin 78, 93, 164, 170, 172  
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**S** "We were  
meant for  
something much  
greater than this world."  
said Jacob Schnoor. 12

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Szczepkowski, Maciej 86, 88, 89, 122, 123, 141

Szot, Morgan 79, 162

**7** "High school is really fun and you should enjoy it." said Tessa Trueblood. 10

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Turner, Justin 92, 93, 136, 143  
Tuttle, Emily 78, 91, 162  
Tuttle, Megan 42, 43, 63, 73, 80, 82, 84, 86, 90, 91, 138, 143, 206

**U** "The tennis team this year felt like family." said Michelle Threna. 11

Ulrich, Logan 172  
Urena, Michelle 118, 119, 145, 153

**V** "High school is the training wheels for life." said Kathy Villalpando. 12

Vaclavik, Joey 78, 80, 93, 132, 134, 143, 191  
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Vuckovich, Jacy 79, 85, 118, 119, 162

**W** "This year went by so fast! I had a great senior year thanks to my team." said Emily Witvoet. 12

Waddell, Chelsea 118, 172  
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Walker, Chance's 23, 62, 74, 78, 79, 85, 139  
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**Y** "I'll never forget the crazy football game against Hobart." said Tyler Yost. 12

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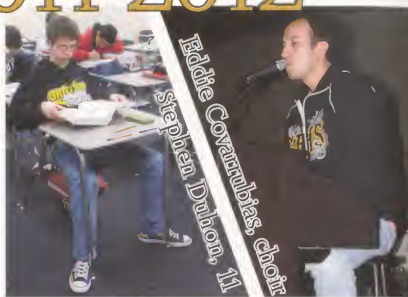
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**Z** "I'll miss career center over the summer, but I can't wait to go back next year." said Andrew Zarnt. 10

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"Sophomore year flew by, and it was one of the best years, because my best friend and I are closer and I've gained a couple new friends," said Alexis Singer, 10

# recall and relive 2011-2012



Memories are made to be kept. Each day spent laughing with friends will be recalled at some point in one's life. No victory will go unremembered, nor will any triumph go uncelebrated. Every day as high schoolers, we encountered situations that may not seem like a big deal at the time, but ultimately come together to make us who we are. Today, you might not have realized that when you consoled your best friend in front of your locker that you would come back to that exact moment years later and remember the silly high school drama that meant absolutely nothing in the grand scheme of life. Rumors, inside jokes, and crazy memories are all a part of the high school experience. Whether the 2011-2012 school year was the first stepping stone in your high school career or the last time you see the 234 people you had spent the past four years with, countless memories were bound to be made and inside jokes were created to be revisited.

For the freshmen, the usual "senior hazing" during Homecoming week was completely avoided. School unity was promoted this year and helped to distract the upperclassmen from singling out the younger students. The freshmen were spared the "freshmen stink" chant and were saved from being the object of the senior prank. The freshmen class of 2015 experienced their first high school dances at Homecoming and Turnabout and felt the pressure of trying out for high school sports for the first time. Their year of "firsts" has finally come to an end and they can now look forward to being the examples to the new incoming freshmen.

The sophomore class of 2014 saw their first five boys and five girls on Turnabout Court and got to experience their round of "seconds." The first of two years of being stuck in the middle could be rough but bearable. Although not yet considered upperclassmen, the sophomores got their taste of not being a freshman and lost the fear of the upperclassmen. Now that their second year of high school is over, the class of 2014 can now look forward to their junior year and a new set of "firsts."

The juniors experienced their first Prom and got a taste of being upperclassmen. Most juniors were thrilled to be through with the rumored hardest year of high school. They had to push through A.P. Biology or Biology II along with Sheila Vachlavik's literary analysis research paper. After two years of being stuck in the middle, the juniors started to learn what it takes to mature into being a senior. The class of 2013 hosted Prom on May fourth and the theme they chose was, "A Night In Hollywood." Between

scheduling for senior year and going to their senior meeting with Bonnie Manuel, the juniors had to come to the realization that they only had one more full year of high school left. But, the juniors received guidance and had a solid set of role models from the class of 2012 seniors.

Senior year is unlike any other. The year began in a way that was as sorrowful as it was unexpected. The senior class had to come together before school started to mourn the loss of their classmate Mark Rex. The seniors kept Mark with them throughout the entire year and voted him "Best Hair" for the Senior Superlatives. There was a seat reserved for him at Graduation. There were a few more things that the seniors learned during their last 180 days at GHS. The realization that it was their last year didn't come naturally. Homecoming, Turnabout, and Prom came and went without so much as a thought of Graduation. Being a senior had its advantages when Senior Superlatives were distributed at the Senior Banquet on April 26th, when the seniors had the annual senior cook out on May 24th, and when the entire senior class mysteriously disappeared the Monday after Prom. Between going on college days and applying for scholarships, the seniors had to squeeze in time to hang out with friends, balance their school work, and participate in sports. Graduation this year was held on June 3rd in the Main Gym. Chorale sang the National Anthem and speeches were given by Joel Kepchar (valedictorian), Megan Tuttle (salutatorian), and Sarah Guistolis (class council president). The class of 2012 really did come together as strangers, but left as eternal friends.

The 2011-2012 school year brought about many unexpected faculty changes. For the first half of the year, Joshua Smock took over for Kristina Collard, English, while she was on maternity leave. Then, three other teachers made the announcement that they were leaving GHS. Krystal Bandy, science, left her teaching position in January to become a forensic scientist in Indianapolis. Eddie Covarrubias, choir, left GHS in the day after the final choir concert in May to become a musical entertainer on Celebrity and Royal Caribbean cruise ships that sail all around the world. Russ Radtke, physical education, made the decision in April to leave GHS the following year to coach football at New Prairie after coaching at Griffith for 19 years. Justin Fronek, vice principal, resigned as the head varsity basketball coach. The softball coach, Ed McLeod, resigned as the head varsity softball coach. Head varsity volleyball coach, Cathy Dilbeck, resigned as head coach along with the junior varsity coach, Jen Klapak. These faculty changes forced the remaining teachers to step up and help out. Because of the missing teachers, there were not enough substitutes to fill the spaces and teachers often had to sub on their prep.

The high school experience is different for everyone. For some, it is a time to buckle down and get good grades to get into a good college. For others, high school is a time to hang out with friends and try wild and crazy new things. Whether studying at McDonald's for an A.P. Calculus test or sleeping through government class, students found different ways to make it through high school. The inside jokes, pointless drama, all-nighters in order to write a paper, and countless projects all helped to prepare students for their next walk of life. Although the seniors' journey through GHS is over, the underclassmen are just beginning their adventure and taking the steps to mature into being a senior. Whether a freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior, we all had to band together to get through the crazy maze of Griffith High School.



After superintendent Dr. Peter Morikis announced the class of 2012 official graduates of Griffith High School, seniors Mallory Baccino, Sarah Gustafson, Michelle Lesniewski, and Stacie Hansen advanced their tassels from the right side of their graduation caps to the left. "It's crazy to believe that my four years of high school are over but I'm really excited to start college. GHS taught me a lot of valuable lessons and I'm grateful to have made the friends that I made and I have no regrets. It's always hard to say good-bye, but now we get to say hello to our futures," said Lesniewski.



# Quote It 2012

## colophone

Reflector Volume 71 was printed by Herff Jones at 2525 Midpoint Drive, Edwardsville, Kansas. Early yearbook orders cost \$70, but the price rose to \$80 as the year went on. Our theme was "Quote It," and throughout the book we focused on quotes and every day sayings of high school students during 2011 and 2012.

The Student Life section and all theme pages, including end sheets, the title page, the opening, the closing, section dividers, and the colophone were designed by editors Sarah Guistoli and Stephanie Brandner. The Academic section was designed by Alyssa Melchor. Chelsea Scofield designed the Clubs section, and the Sports section was designed by JT Long. Ellison Cullen designed the People section, and the Business and Ads section was designed by Caylee Adams. The cover of the yearbook was designed by Sarah Guistoli, Stephanie Brandner, and Ellison Cullen, and by a Herff Jones art designer. The story font is AHJ Jessica and the secondary font is AHJ Sans. The accent cursive font is Brush Script MT. All three font families were used throughout the book.

All pages were submitted using ePage and designed with Adobe InDesign CS4 and Adobe Photoshop programs. Photos were shot using digital cameras and uploaded to the Apple Macintosh computers. Larry Titak in Schererville, Indiana, shot senior and faculty portraits, as well as club group shots and sports team photographs. Underclassmen photos were taken by HR Imaging Partners, Inc.

The goal of this book was to capture memories for students to relive for years to come. The staff would like to send a special thank you to Mrs. Collard, who guided us and supported us throughout the making of this book. The seniors will definitely miss her, but always remember everything that she taught them.

## Reflector Staff



## Letters from the Editors



After four years of classes, projects, practices, and assignments, my high school journey has finally come to an end. I was introduced to Journalism in Mrs. Collard's class freshman year. I joined Reflector Staff first semester of sophomore year, as a first-year reporter. During this year, I learned much about writing style and interviewing. Junior year, I became the Academics Section Design Editor. This taught me a lot about design, and really prepared me for my job this year as Editor-in-Chief. Being Editor has definitely proved to be very difficult. Stephanie and I spent many hours at the end of junior year and over the summer planning the theme and design elements for our book. First semester was the most challenging, with a predominantly new staff and Mrs. Collard on maternity leave (welcome Baby Kent!). However, it really helped to have a co-editor. I have spent countless hours during this year in the lab, designing, editing, and sending out pages; it has basically become my home away from home! I want to give special thanks to Stephanie Brandner. There was nobody that I wouldn't rather share the position with! We managed to have a great time despite the stress and long hours. I would also like to thank Mrs. Collard for being a great Advisor, teacher, and helping hand whenever we need it.

Sincerely,

*Sarah Guistoli*

Well, my senior year is finally complete. I took Journalism in Mrs. Collard's class freshman year and I joined the Reflector Staff second semester of freshman year as a reporter. I learned how to work the in's and out's of InDesign during this year and I learned what makes a great quote. I was the Clubs Section Design Editor junior year. Being a section editor forces you to push yourself to your creative boundaries and to work on a tight schedule. Senior year, Sarah and I finally got to be the girls in charge. As Editor-in-Chief, we had a lot of responsibility and we encountered a few problems, especially the daily riddles. Ha. But we got through the struggles together and helped teach our young and inexperienced staff how to work our temperamental computers. This year, I was constantly in the lab designing, editing, and helping people with spreads. But I never could have done all of this without my amazing co-editor, Sarah Guistoli. She was always there to vent with when a spread didn't turn out perfect or when a deadline was difficult to meet. I have to say that I'm so incredibly proud of us and that I'm glad we had the opportunity to work together for these long hours. I don't think I've ever had more good times with someone just by sitting at a computer. I would also like to thank Mrs. Collard for being there for us with advice and believing in Sarah's and my ability to make an awesome yearbook.

Sincerely,

*Stephanie Brandner*

## Quotes that Define 2011-2012

"Every year brings on a lot of new changes."

"During my first year of high school, I learned that the teachers are much harder on us, the sports are very different, and clubs like choir became much more fun. However, all of my friends did not change."

-Alex Garcia, 9

"There will always be a few people you can count on."

"(Senior) Amanda Bakko has always been there for me. This year, we got matching dream catcher tattoos with the Chicago skyline."

-Brittany Anderson, 12

"Taking opportunities teaches you a lot about yourself."

"If I hadn't taken the chance and done DECA this year, I wouldn't have learned a lot about myself. DECA has taught me better communication skills in the business world."

-Brienna Schramm, 10

the 1990s, the number of people in the UK with a mental health problem has increased by 50% (Mental Health Act 1983).

There is a growing awareness of the need to improve the lives of people with mental health problems. The Department of Health (1999) has set out a vision of a new mental health system, which will be based on the following principles:

- People with mental health problems should be able to live their lives in the community, rather than in hospital.
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# Reflector

## 2011-2012 *Staff*

With a staff of 24 students, we successfully made it through another year of meeting deadlines, designing pages, reporting, and editing to finally produce a book of 208 pages. The focus of The Reflector was to preserve memories made in the 2011-2012 school year.



Kristina Collard  
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Editor-In-Chief



Stephanie Brandner  
Editor-In-Chief



Ellison Cullen  
People Design Editor



Caylee Adams  
Ads and Index Editor



JT Long  
Sports Design Editor



Chelsea Scofield & Alyssa Melchor  
Clubs Design Editor & Academics Design Editor



Stacy Weber & Lisa Kurpela  
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Rosie Quintanilla  
Reporter



Miryea Cisneros  
Reporter





Amy Bubala  
Reporter

&

Sara Joyce  
Reporter



Kaitlynn Mang  
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Lauren Rotermund  
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Ashley Pinkham  
Reporter



Abby Grabos  
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